



# CHESTER COUNTY









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# HISTORY and PROGRESS of CHESTER COUNTY

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Prepared For and Released by The Com-  
missioners of Chester County, West Chester,  
Pennsylvania.

1962



THE FIRST COUNTY SEAL—1683



THE COUNTY SEAL TODAY

OFFICIAL COUNTY SEALS

## Foreword

This brochure has been prepared for the County Commissioners as a brief report of the history and culture surrounding the development of Chester County from its origin in 1682 to the present, and as a ready reference of pertinent data and information on its governmental operations for all citizens of the County and others having an interest therein.

It is intended also as a source of information to point up the beautiful countryside and the potential of its abundant resources and to initiate a desire on the part of other individuals and industry to settle here. It is further intended to be a ready reference for county students in their studies of civil government.

Since the services rendered to its citizens are manifold and constitute an important aspect of community life, Chester County Government is not something remote from the life of its average citizen. Rather, it plays a prominent role in his everyday existence, affecting him in numerous ways. We, therefore, dedicate this brochure to our citizens that they may have a fundamental background knowledge with which to take an intelligent and active interest in the affairs of our government.

C. Gilbert Hazlett

Russell B. Jones

Robert F. Turner

Board of Commissioners



The Commissioners in Executive Session



## Acknowledgments

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## Bibliography

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TABLE OF SECTIONS



Section I—HISTORY AND PROGRESS  
OF CHESTER COUNTY.....Pages 1 - 35

Section II—BACKGROUND OF COUNTY  
GOVERNMENT.....Pages 36 - 45

Section III—INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE.....Pages 46 - 56

Section IV—COUNTY SERVICES.....Pages 57 - 74

Section V—THE COURTS.....Pages 75 - 81

Section VI—ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIALS.....Pages 82 - 93

Section VII—POINTS OF INTEREST.....Pages 94 - 95



# CHESTER COUNTY

## HISTORICAL REFERENCES

### and

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT



### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Subject	Page No.	Section No.
Acknowledgments	3	
Foreword	2	
Picture Illustrations		
Birmingham Friends Meeting House .....	43	
J. Bishop & Company.....	93	
Brandywine Valley Water Shed.....	29	
Buck & Doe Run Valley Farms.....	25	
Borough's Corporation Research Center .....	88	
G. O. Carlson, Inc.....	44	
Chester County Area Airport. ....	55	
Chester County Day.....	34	
Chester County Farms. ....	42	
Chester County Hospital.....	23	
Conard-Pyle.....	96	
County Commissioners.....	2	
Court House.....	Cover	
Diamond Rock School.....	97	
Downingtown Paper Co.....	49	
F & M Scientific Corporation.....	52	
Foote Mineral Co.....	93	
Good Samaritan Episcopal Church.....	16	
Great Valley Presbyterian Church.....	100	
Historic Hut.....	10	
Immaculata College.....	65	
Knox Bridge.....	13	
Lincoln University.....	43	
Longwood Gardens.....	30	
Lukens Steel Co.....	45	



## II

McAvoy Vitrified Brick.....	48
Mushroom Growing.....	25
Mushroom Houses.....	87
National Bank of Chester County and Trust Co.....	22
New County Building.....	10
Orphans' Court.....	76-77
Pocopson Home.....	62
Rose Growing Greenhouse.....	60
St. Agnes Church.....	33
Soil Conservation.....	28
South Junior High School.....	16
Swiss Pines Park.....	31
Valley Forge.....	97
Waynesborough.....	35
West Chester State College.....	74
Westtown School.....	17
Wyeth Laboratories, Inc.....	91

## HISTORY AND PROGRESS OF CHESTER COUNTY

Subject	Page No.	Section No.
Agriculture.....	24	1
Census.....	26	1
Co-operative Extension Association.....	27	1
Farm Organizations.....	26	1
Banking.....	21	1
Brandywine Valley Association.....	28	1
Bridges.....	12	1
Canals.....	13	1
Chester County Art Association.....	32	1
Chester County Day.....	34	1
Delaware Dental Society.....	19	1
Medical Society.....	20	1
Seat of Government.....	11	1
Churches.....	14	1
Colleges & Universities.....	18	1
Ferries.....	14	1
Founding.....	11	1
Freedoms Foundation.....	35	1
Homes.....	12	1
Hospitals.....	23	1
Inns & Taverns.....	20	1
Libraries.....	20	1
Longwood Gardens Foundation.....	31	1



## III

Subject	Page No.	Section No.
Mushroom Industry.....	25	1
Native Sons & Daughters.....	33	1
Newcomen Society in North America.....	20	1
Newspapers.....	18	1
Primitive Hall Foundation.....	32	1
Post Offices .....	21	1
Railroads.....	14	1
Red Clay Valley Association.....	29	1
Schools.....	15	1
Scouting—Boys.....	19	1
Girls.....	19	1
Settlers.....	11	1
Sharp's Woods Reserve.....	32	1
Slaves.....	21	1
Soil Conservation Service.....	27	1
Stage Coaches.....	14	1
Swiss Pine Park Foundation.....	32	1
Topography.....	11	1
Trails & Roads.....	12	1
Trolleys.....	14	1
BACKGROUND OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT		
Area of Chester County.....	36	2
Boundaries of Chester County.....	36	2
Boroughs-City & Townships created.....	37	2
Census* - Federal.....	37	2
Class of County & Population.....	37	2
County Finances.....	39	2
Bond Issues.....	41	2
General Fund Rec. & Exp.....	42	2
Government Operation Costs.....	40	2
Safeguarding Funds & Depositories.....	42	2
Tax Collection - Delinquents.....	39	2
Procedures.....	39	2
Court House.....	36	2
Clock.....	36	2
Sub-divisions.....	36	2
INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE		
Air Miles to Cities in Penna.....	55	3
Atomic Era or Space Age.....	48	3
Chester County Area Airport Authority.....	55	3
Distances to Some Major Cities.....	54	3

IV

Subject	Page No.	Section No
Early Pioneers in Industry.....	46	3
Industry and Commerce.....	53	3
Survey.....	53	3
International Airport.....	54	3
Markets.....	53	3
Minerals.....	48	3
Public Utilities.....	56	3
Seaport.....	54	3
Vacation and Recreation.....	54	3
COUNTY SERVICES		
Board of Assessment and Revision of Taxes.....	57	4
Personal Property Tax Bureau.....	57	4
Chester County Building (New).....	74	4
Development Council.....	68	4
Farms (Prison).....	69	4
Housing Committee.....	68	4
Library.....	61	4
New Court Facilities.....	74	4
Park and Recreation.....	66	4
Planning Commission.....	66	4
Redevelopment Authority.....	68	4
Safety Council.....	70	4
Water Resources Authority.....	69	4
Child Care.....	58	4
Civil Defense.....	59	4
Contagious Diseases.....	64	4
Cost Clerk.....	59	4
Election Bureau.....	61	4
Engineer - County.....	61	4
Insurance - Group.....	72	4
Liquid Fuels Funds.....	64	4
Maps - Official County.....	65	4
Micro Film - Records.....	65	4
Pocopson Home.....	62	4
Registration Bureau - Public.....	70	4
Retirement Board - Social Security.....	71	4
Salary Board.....	72	4
Sealer Weights and Measures.....	72	4
Surplus Foods.....	73	4
Veterans Affairs.....	73	4



## V

## THE COURTS

Subject	Page No.	Section No.
Board of Viewers.....	79	5
Chester County Law Reporter.....	81	5
Court - Common Pleas.....	75	5
Criminal .....	76	5
Equity.....	75	5
Juvenile.....	76	5
Reporter.....	81	5
Separate Orphans' Court.....	77	5
Courts - Early.....	75	5
Judicial District - 15th.....	75	5
Jury Commissioners.....	77	5
Grand.....	78	5
Selection of.....	78	5
Wheel Custody.....	78	5
Juvenile Home.....	79	5
Law Library.....	79	5
Members of the Bar - First.....	75	5
Probation - Adult.....	79	5
Juvenile.....	80	5

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

Clerk of Courts.....	85	6
County Commissioners.....	82	6
Controller.....	85	6
Coroner.....	86	6
District Attorney.....	87	6
Elected Legislators-County & Dist.....	84	6
Judges.....	83	6
Legislative Districts.....	84	6
Organization Chart - County.....	83	6
Prothonotary.....	88	6
Recorder of Deeds.....	89	6
Register of Wills-Clerk of Orphans' Court.....	90	6
Sheriff.....	90	6
Surveyor.....	92	6
Treasurer.....	92	6

POINTS OF INTEREST.....	94	7
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The 1710 Log Cabin, Downingtown



Artist rendering of the New County Building, New & Market Sts.



# HISTORY AND PROGRESS OF CHESTER COUNTY

## Founding

From the original founding of the Colony by the Swedes at Upland (Chester), the oldest town in Pennsylvania in 1644, William Penn, under Charter signed by King Charles II in 1681, created Chester County in 1682, with land purchased honorably from the Indians. This was one of the first three counties in Pennsylvania. The County then extended East to the Delaware River from the Susquehanna, to the Schuylkill River on the North, and South to the Mason-Dixon Line. The Mason-Dixon Line identified the boundaries of Pennsylvania and Maryland in 1863, and the Delaware line determined by the segment of a circle of 12 mile radius from the Court House at New Castle, Delaware.

## Settlers

Following the Indians, the last of whom in Chester County was "Indian Hannah" who died in 1807, at age 71, the first settlers were Dutch, 1616; English, 1634; Swedes, 1638; Finns, 1640; Welsh-Quakers, 1682. In the South-east townships of Westtown, Thornbury, and Birmingham in the last two decades of the 17th century, land was taken up chiefly by the English-Quakers and Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. Finally at the end of the first quarter of the 18th century, the northern tier of townships received many settlers from along the Rhine, the so-called Pennsylvania Dutch. All other nationalities that appeared in the County during the 18th century were small.

## Our County Seat

Our County Seat is located on a summit at an elevation of 456', with a prevailing temperate climate. The average prevailing temperatures are 31.5 degrees in January, and 75.0 degrees in July. The mean temperature for the year is 49 degrees. The average growing season is 180 days. The last killing frost comes about April 15th, and in the fall the first killing frost about October 15th. The latitude is 39 degrees, 57 minutes, 31.3 seconds North; the longitude is 1 degree, 24 minutes, 57.7 seconds east of Washington, D. C., or 75 degrees, 36 minutes, 32.7 seconds west from Greenwich near London, England.

## Topography

The topography of Chester County is a rolling undulated type of countryside, which from Provincial days to the present has attracted men to settle

here. It is in this setting the earliest settlers' homes were to be found in caves of protected hillsides, or in cabins for warmth and shelter.

## Homes

One of the types of log cabins still existing is at Downingtown, where it was built in 1710 at the bridge on the east bank of the Brandywine on the north side of U.S. Route 30. Next the fine old Colonial stone homes and farm homesteads followed, dotting the countryside. The architectural designs varying from high roof tops and narrow buildings of the 17th century to the lower pitched roofs with the buildings proportioned in width and height in the 18th century. The later construction toward the end of the century indicates the use of finer craftsmanship in the fine woodwork detail installed both inside and outside.

## Trails and Roads

The earliest system of trails, and extension thereof along with fording creeks, progress was slow. Real progress began when Court Orders were issued compelling every person within the period of two months, to make good and passable ways on his lands for neighbors to use. From these beginnings, roads were developed. Some of the early roads established were the Baltimore-Philadelphia road, known as U.S. 1 from an early date; the Maryland-Oxford-Cochranville-Parkesburg road, surveyed in 1724; the Strasburg road, in 1794. Chester County had the first turnpike in America, which extended between Philadelphia and Lancaster, opened in 1794, it is now known as the Lincoln Highway, or U.S. 30. The Horseshoe Pike, from Downingtown to Honey Brook, was opened in 1803. Along with these turnpikes came the tollgates. Other roads followed such as the Wilmington-Reading via West Chester (which was planked from West Chester to Dilworthtown), in 1854. Today there prevails in Chester County an excellent road network. Five miles to the North of the County Seat is U.S. 30, the Lincoln Highway; three miles beyond, is the famed Pennsylvania Turnpike, both of which transverse the State in an East-West direction. Seven miles to the South is U.S. 1, the Baltimore Pike. Entering the County Seat are highway routes U.S. 202 and 322; and Pennsylvania Routes 3, 29, 52, 100, 162 and 842. Chester County now has 1,130.39 miles of improved State Highways, of which 1,077.63 miles are in townships; 47.70 miles are in boroughs, and 5.06 miles are in cities. Chester County also has 1,451.16 miles of non-state owned highways of which 1,292.81 is maintained by the townships; 137.7 miles, by boroughs; 21.28 miles, by cities. The total miles of roads in the County are 2,581.55.

## Bridges

As early as 1685, the Courts were ordering the construction of bridges,



which naturally played an important role in the development of transportation and communication. The earliest bridges were of wood (both open and covered), then stone, and later iron and steel. Some of the earliest bridges in this County are the Downingtown Bridge over the Brandywine on the Provincial Highway, which was erected in 1741, and replaced in 1801 at the present location as the property of the Turnpike Co., and now identified as County Bridge No. 122; Bridge No. 89, Marshall's at Northbrook (originally private) which was built in 1767 and replaced in 1807 and is one of the oldest structures of its kind in the world; the Moore-Hall (stone arch) No. 172, Phoenixville-Valley Forge, over Pickering Creek, and Iron Sides over French Creek west of Phoenixville on Route 183, were erected, in 1789. French Creek (two stone arches) Charlestown Township, identified with General Anthony Wayne, in 1771. Over the Octorara are Andrews (stone four arch-439') erected 1813; Pine Grove, erected 1816; and Kirk's, erected 1828. Chadds Ford over the Brandywine, erected 1828; Knauertown (stone-432'), over French Creek, erected 1819; Cope's (stone three arch), over East Branch of the Brandywine, erected 1807. Others equally of interest, include inter-county across the Octorara, but too numerous to record here. Of the many covered bridges erected in the County, once crossing the county streams, only twenty now remain.

## Canals

Among the early modes of transportation, canals played an important part. One of these, the Schuylkill Canal, which was established in 1822, hauled coal up to World War I.



Knox Bridge, Valley Forge



## Stage Coaches

Stage Coaches across our Country were the first public transportation. The one from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, was established, in 1804.

## Ferries

Ferries also played an important role in transportation. Among the famous ones were the Chadds Ford, established in 1737; Paulings above Valley Forge, established in 1753; and Buckwalters, established before 1859.

## Railroads

Railroads were the next pioneers in developing industry and transportation. Between West Chester and Intersection (Malvern), a horse drawn railroad was established in 1831 and replaced with steam in 1845. Others were the Reading Railroad, chartered in Pennsylvania in 1833; the Columbia-Philadelphia Railroad, horsedrawn, in 1833, replaced with steam in 1834; the Pennsylvania Railroad, chartered in 1846, established Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, in 1852; the Chester Valley (Reading) Railroad, Bridgeport to Downingtown, in 1853; the Philadelphia Railroad, West Chester to Media in 1858; the Pennsylvania-Downingtown to Honey Brook, in 1854; the Wilmington Northern (Reading), in 1870; the Philadelphia to Reading, in 1883; the Philadelphia-Baltimore Central Railroad to Oxford, in 1859, thence on to Rising Sun, Maryland in 1865; the Wilmington and Western Railroad to Landenberg, in 1872; the Pickering Valley (Reading), Phoenixville to Byers, in 1871; the Oxford to Peach Bottom (narrow gauge), about 1870; the French Creek (Reading) in 1880.

## Trolleys

Trolleys too were developed as another form of transportation. The important ones were the West Chester Street Railway Company, from West Chester via Lenape to Kennett Square and West Grove 1895, abandoned 1923, except to Lenape 1929; West Chester to Philadelphia 1899, abandoned 1954; West Chester-Downingtown-Coatesville 1902-1903; Conestoga Traction Company Coatesville-Parkesburg-Lancaster 1909, and abandoned in 1932; the Valley Forge-Phoenixville-Spring City Trolley Company ran from Phoenixville to Spring City early 1900 and from Phoenixville to Valley Forge in 1910, both lines were abandoned between 1922-1925. All have now been replaced by the modern bus.

## Churches

Churches from Provincial days have played a highly important role along



with all the pioneering development. There has always been a deep desire for the practice of religious faith, followed very closely by the desire for culture through education. Both have been strong forces in the development of the minds and the guidance of our youth. Chester County is blessed with approximately 285 churches today of many denominations. Some of the earliest churches established in Chester County are the Friends Meetings at Goshen and Nottingham in 1701 and Kennett in 1710. Next came the Welsh Baptist, at London Britain in 1701; Baptist, at Hepzibah, as a mission in 1701 and as a Congregation in 1720; German Baptist in 1724; Presbyterian, at Great Valley, in 1710; Mennonites, East Coventry, in 1728; Episcopal, St. John's, West Caln in 1729; Roman Catholic, at West Chester, as a mission in 1730, and as Christ's Church in 1793, the name being changed to St. Agnes in 1853; Lutheran Missionary from Germany, in 1742; German Reformed, East Coventry, in 1743; Methodist Missionary, East Marlborough in 1773; and Negro Presbyterian (Hinsonville-Lincoln University), in 1854.

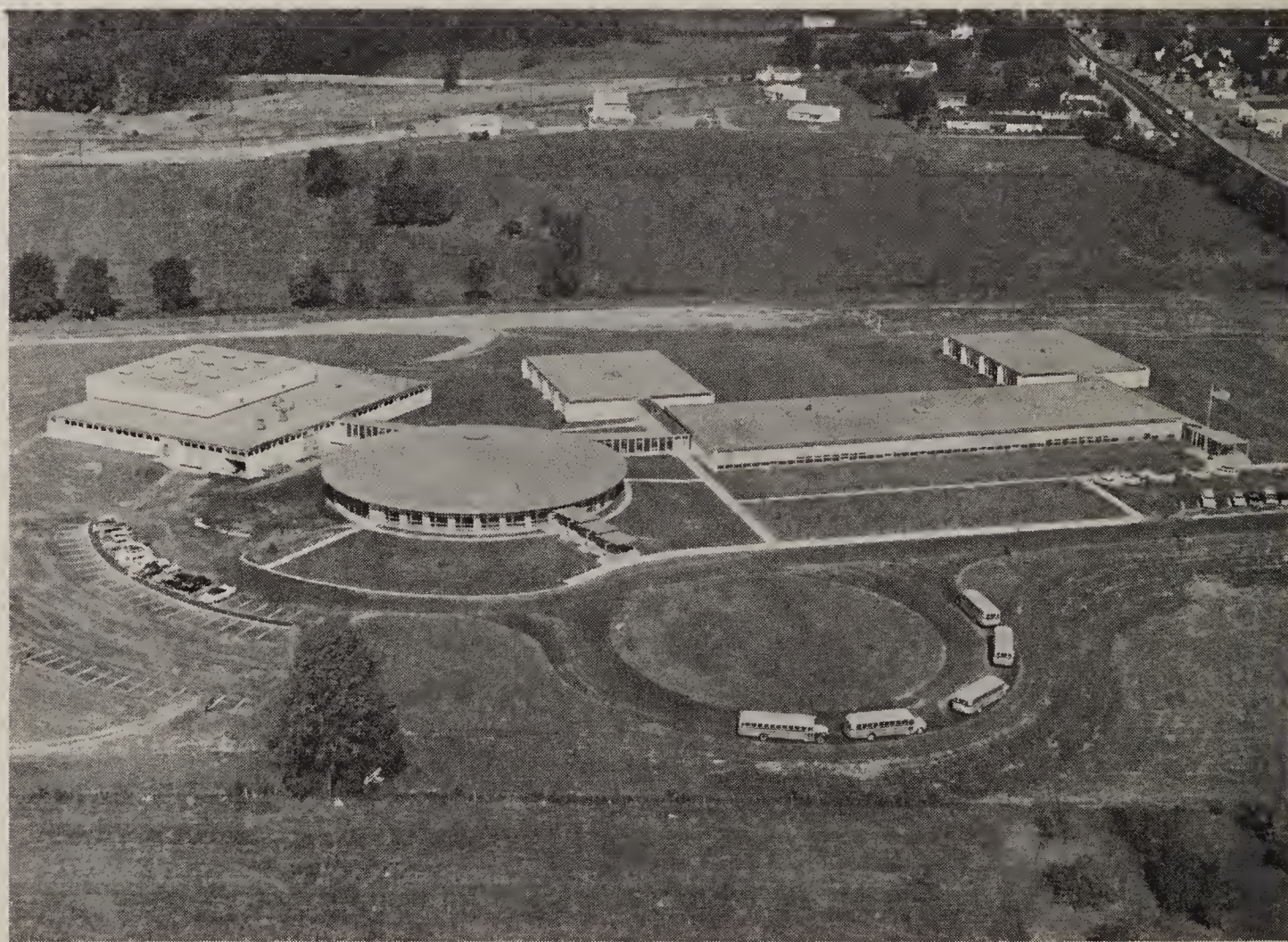
## Schools

Following the Decree of 1682 by William Penn that the Governor and Council "shall erect and order all public schools and encourage and regard the authors of useful sciences and laudable inventions," and aided by the liberal and loyal support of its citizens and dedicated teachers, education following closely with the Churches did become a strong force in the guidance and cultural development of our youth in the private school system. Chester County, having been so fortunate in the character of her early Settlers, and with education so universal among all classes, has inherited the preeminence which her people have attained from general character and distinction. The first school sessions were held in Churches. The early school houses were either of log or stone construction. Among some of the better known centers of learning in the private system up to 1834, are the Fagg's Manor Academy, founded in 1739; New London Academy, founded in 1743, from whence many leaders in our early history came, such as Charles Thomson, Secretary of the Continental Congress, Thomas McKean, Governor of Pennsylvania and Signer of the Declaration of Independence, along with George Reed and James Smith; Nottingham Academy, founded in 1744, where Dr. Benjamin Rush graduated, and its founder Samuel Finley later became President of Princeton in 1761; Birmingham School (Octagonal Building) founded in 1753 and replaced in 1819; Westtown Boarding School (Co-ed), founded in 1799; West Chester Academy, founded as a district school in 1812; French Creek Boarding School at Kimberton (Girls), founded in 1817; Diamond Rock School, also Octagonal, founded in 1818, near Valley Forge, and the one in the best state of preserve today; Unionville Academy, founded in 1834, among its students Bayard Taylor. And in later years, Ercildoun Seminary, established at Ercildoun for boys in 1851, until 1877 when it was removed to West Chester and renamed Darlington Seminary for girls, which flourished until the early 1930's.





Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, Paoli



South Junior High School, West Chester



With the private system came the "Free Public School" Act of 1834, which by 1836 became general. Next came the County Superintendent of Schools office created by the Legislature in 1854. It has been under the direction of twelve Superintendents from origin to date. The initial report of this office rendered to the Secretary of the Commonwealth in 1855, listed thereon 250 buildings, with a student enrollment of 15,284. Schools in service averaged seven months. Average monthly teacher salaries for men was \$22.23, and for women \$15.42. Following the Civil War, high schools began to appear in Chester County, so that at the turn of the century 664 pupils were enrolled, employing 30 teachers; and in elementary schools the enrollment was 18,176, taught by 489 teachers. Next came the County Board of School Directors in 1937. The General Assembly for many years recognized school districts were too small, and in 1947 provided for the County Board of School Directors to voluntarily develop school district mergers. Now, however, under Act 561, of 1961, the General Assembly makes it mandatory plans be revised by the County Board of School Directors for larger school districts containing a minimum of 4,000 students, which plans are to become effective in 1965. During the period 1950-1960 they were reorganized into the larger joint boards. The enrolled public school census of 1960 was 16,545 pupils in the high schools, and 24,010 in the elementary schools, making a total enrollment of 40,555 students. There are presently 365 school board members serving and directing school affairs in the County. Beginning with what is now St. Agnes Catholic Parochial School in West Chester 1871, the enrolled census for 1960 was 5,459 elementary students in the County, and in the only Catholic High School in Chester County, established in 1909 and recently merged into "Bishop Shanahan High School" of West Chester, 532 students. Some of the more prominent private and public



The Westtown Friends School, Westtown



educational institutions in the County today are the "Pennhurst State Institution," established 1903 near Spring City, for care and training of mentally deficient children beyond the nursery state; Downingtown Industrial and Agricultural School, founded in 1905 as an inter-denominational school for boys to learn trades and complete high school; the Devereux Foundation, founded in 1912 at Devon, for treatment and education of children and adolescents with special psychiatric and educational problems; the Royer-Graves School for the Blind, founded at Paoli in 1921; the Malvern Preparatory School, founded at Malvern in 1923, as a college preparatory for boys, grades IX through XII; the Church Farm School, founded at Glenloch, on U.S. 30, in 1926, for the training of orphaned boys in agriculture up to the college level; the Villa Maria Academy and Conservatory, founded at Green Tree in 1926 (girls), grades I through XII; the Phelps School, founded at Malvern in 1947 (boys), College Preparatory VII through XII grades; and others equally interesting and noteworthy. Following the Public Schools Act and the Act creating the office of County Superintendent of Schools, school laws became so numerous that the "school code" was adopted in 1911. Active with others in the preparation of this "code" was George Morris Philips, a Chester Countian, and Principal of the West Chester Normal School. While public education is a matter of Local Municipalities and State Government, Chester County renders assistance by providing for the County Superintendent's office quarters, office personnel salaries, furnishings, equipment, maintenance and supplies.

## Newspapers

Educational activities were first extended into the field of journalism late in the 18th century. Some of the earlier and better known newspapers and periodicals in the County were in West Chester: The "Gazette," 1794; The "Chester-Delaware Federalist," 1809; The "Village Record," 1818; "The Jeffersonian," 1842; The "Daily Local News," 1872. In Downingtown the newspapers were the "Temperate Zone," 1808, and the "Independent Journal," 1827. In Phoenixville the first newspaper was the "Phoenix Gazette," 1846. Others preceded and followed throughout the County, equally interesting and perhaps as noteworthy. Today throughout the County there are three dailies and nine weeklies being published. At the County Seat, the "Chester County Reporter" was established for legal notices, in 1881. In 1853 the "Chester County Medical Reporter," a quarterly journal was inaugurated by the Chester-Delaware County Medical Societies, at West Chester.

## Colleges and Universities

The desires, support, and appreciation of Chester Countians for higher education is to be seen in its two colleges and a university, which offer full accredited higher education. Lincoln University, formerly Ashmun Institute,

was established by Charter of the Legislature in 1854, to provide liberal arts education for the colored. It was renamed Lincoln University, in 1866, following the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. This university is located on U.S. 1, east of Oxford, in Lower Oxford Township. Lincoln University now is integrated. Its original buildings date from 1856-1896. Immaculata College was founded in 1908 by the Order of Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as Villa Maria College, and chartered in 1921, as Villa Maria College for women students in Liberal Arts education. Its name was changed to Immaculata College in 1929. It is situated in East Whiteland Township, near Frazer. The West Chester State College was established as West Chester Normal School in 1871, following a merger of the West Chester Academy. The original buildings on the campus date from 1872-1890, beginning with "Old Main Dormitory." By Acts of the legislature, the name was changed in 1927 from Normal School to West Chester State Teachers College, and again changed in 1960 to its present title. This college provides co-ed elementary and secondary teacher curricula in music, health and physical education, and a graduate program which was established in 1959. The University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine (New Bolton Center) was established in 1952, on a 300 acre tract, formerly the Pusey property, near Kennett Square in East Marlborough Township on Street Road. Also the Flowers and Cook Observatory of the University of Pennsylvania was established in 1956 on Providence Road in Willistown Township. This purely scientific institution is not open to the public.

### **Boy Scout Facilities in Chester County:**

Chester County Council Inc., Boy Scouts of America, 125 North High Street, West Chester—"Horseshoe Scout Reservation," of approximately 650 acres, on both sides of the Octorara; Oakwood District, Cecil County, Maryland; West Nottingham township, Chester County; and Fulton township in Lancaster County, off U.S. 1, right, two miles west of Rising Sun, Maryland. Containing (1) Scout Camp, (2) Explorer Base and (3) Jambo Camp, open yearly, with an annual attendance of approximately 3,000.

### **Girl Scout Facilities in Chester County:**

Chester County Girl Scouts, 14 South Church Street, West Chester—Camp Tweeddale, of approximately 100 acres in Lower Oxford Township, established in 1930. Open year round, with an annual attendance of approximately 1,000. Off Pennsylvania route 15024 to Pine Grove on Tweed Run at the City of Chester Water Authority Reservoir.

### **Chester and Delaware Counties Dental Society**

The Chester and Delaware Counties Dental Society was established early in 1895. At that time it adopted a Code of Ethics embracing obligations to pa-



tients, standard of character, regard for associates, and conservatism in advertisements. The nature of the Society is unique in its combination of social and professional activities.

## **The Newcomen Society in North America**

This is a voluntary association with headquarters in Uwchlan township, Chester County. Established in 1858, by the late L. F. Loree, of New York, then dean of American railroad presidents, its primary interests are material history, as distinguished from political history. Its objectives center in the beginnings, growth, development, contributions, and influence of industry, transportation, communication, the utilities, mining, agriculture, banking, finance, economics, insurance, education, invention, and the law—these and correlated historical fields. Located here is the Thomas Newcomen Library a reference collection open for research. The society is located on North Ship Road, Route 15184.

## **The Chester County Medical Society**

Was founded in 1828, at that time, it was the only society in Pennsylvania drawing its membership from county practice. In fact more than fifteen years elapsed before similar organizations were attempted in any of the adjoining counties. It was reorganized in 1847, at which time it adopted a code of medical ethics, with the sanction of the American Medical Association.

## **Libraries**

The burning desire for knowledge and culture by our early ancestors was evidenced in their support of public libraries. Some of the early libraries are New London, 1806, Farmers of London Grove, 1805, and Winsor, 1866. Among the Public Libraries in efficient operation today are the Atglen, East-town-Berwyn, Coatesville, Downingtown, Bayard Taylor Memorial-Kennett Square, Oxford, Paoli, Parkesburg, Phoenixville, Spring City, West Grove, and West Chester. College Libraries are Immaculata College-Malvern, Vail Memorial-Lincoln University, and the West Chester State. The Chester County Historical Society also has an extensive library.

## **Inns and Taverns**

Blending with the history and development of the County, some of the early and better known Inns and Taverns were the Leopard Inn, Tredyffrin Township, 1716; Chrome Inn, East Nottingham, 1715; White Horse Tavern, Willistown Township, 1721; Paoli Inn, Paoli, 1725; Eagle Hotel, Uwchlan Township, 1727; Red Rose Inn, of Rose payment rent fame, near West Grove, on U.S. 1, 1731; Half-Way House Tavern, Chatham, 1741, renamed Chatham for the Earl of Chatham, William Pitt, in 1766; Ship Inn, originally above Downingtown, 1755,



later moved to West Whiteland Township at Ship Road, on U.S. 30; King In Arms Inn, at Downingtown, 1761, which later housed the original Post Office in Chester County; Turk's Head Inn, West Chester, 1761; Anvil Inn on U.S. 1, at Longwood, near Kennett Square, 1782; Buck Tavern, at Routes 23 and 100, 1790; Black Horse Tavern, 1794; and many others equally famous and nonetheless interesting. Among the earliest licenses granted within the present limits of the County for the sale of alcohol was that of Thomas Moore, at Downingtown, in 1717.

## Post Offices

The earliest Post Office established in Chester County was at Downingtown, 1798, others following were Cochranville, New Garden, New London, Chatham, and Kennett Square respectively. West Chester was established next in 1804. Today there are fifty-six Post Offices in Chester County. Postmasters were appointed by the Postmaster General, until 1849. Since that time, they have held office by Presidential appointment.

## Slaves

Before the Swedes and William Penn and the English, the Dutch introduced slavery. Following the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, England secured a monopoly on the slave trade. It predominated in the Welsh Townships of Charlestown, Tredyffrin, East Nantmeal, and Nantmeal, and in those places settled largely by the Scotch-Irish, such as New London, Londonderry, Oxford, and East Nottingham. Very few slaves were to be found elsewhere in the County. Opposition to slavery began with the Friends in 1688, aided by other groups. Pennsylvania was the first state to abolish slavery by Act of Assembly in 1780. Aided by the "Fugitive Slave Law" which was passed by Congress in 1850, Chester Countians keenly sympathized with and aided the runaway slaves as they passed through established routes and stopped at friendly homes. These designated citizens' homes were known as the "Underground Railroad Stations." Among those established in Chester County were the home of Rachel Pierce (now Longwood), and homes in Kennett Square, West Chester, Downingtown, Honey Brook, Newlin, Unionville, Kimberton, Phoenixville, Ercildoun, East Bradford and Willistown.

## Banking

From Provincial times to the present, banking has contributed a major role in our industrial and economic life. Banking records disclose that the "Bank of Chester County" (now the National Bank of Chester County and Trust Company) was the pioneer bank of Chester County, having been established by Act of Legislature, in 1814. It opened for business in 1814 on the second floor of the then County Records Building at the Northwest corner of High





The National Bank of Chester County and Trust Co., West Chester

and Market Streets. It moved across the street in 1818 to the building in front of the Court House where it remained until 1837 when the bank moved next door to its present site. The bank building used from 1818 to 1837 was then used as a residence by an official of the Bank until 1883. From that time until 1958 it was leased for public offices. Again, in 1959 it was taken over by the Bank, this time to be its Trust Department. Following the passage of the National Banking Act, the bank became a National Bank in 1864, as the "National Bank of Chester County." Some of the earlier banks following this first bank were: National Bank of Chester Valley at Coatesville, 1857; National Bank of Oxford, at Oxford, 1858; National Bank of Downingtown, at Downingtown, 1861; The First National Bank of West Chester, at the County Seat, was the first bank in the County granted a National bank charter 1863, and opened for business in 1864. The only mutual savings bank in the county is the Dime Savings Bank of Chester County, established in 1890. It is one of the few within the State. From this beginning Chester County now has nineteen excellent banking institutions offering modern facilities, with a strong financial background. One of the nineteen banks through merger is directed from without the County. The consolidated financial position of all banks in the County at the close of business, December 31, 1961, reports Capital of



\$4,385,000.00, Surplus of \$12,265,000.00, and Deposits of \$197,316,946.00. These facilities render invaluable assistance to the citizens of Chester County, and are available to serve diversified new home and industrial expansion within the County.

## Hospitals

From Provincial days to the Revolution, humane care and treatment of the ill was provided largely in private homes. After the Battle of Brandywine, hospitals became necessary and were provided, for the sick and wounded, by commandeering churches, meeting houses, taverns, schools and barns. At West Chester were the Turk's Head Tavern, the old school house at the intersection of the Valley and Brandywine Roads, and the Birmingham Meeting House for the Battle of Brandywine, for both American and British casualties. There was also the Uwchlan Friends Meeting House, at Lionville, for the wounded of the Paoli Massacre. Others were the barns of Joseph Downing at Downingtown, Herman Prizer's, in East Coventry Township; the churches of the German Reformed in East Vincent Township; and the Zion Lutheran, in East Pikeland Township. In addition, commodious and well arranged army hospitals were established at Yellow Springs (Chester Springs) in Pikeland Township for the Continental Army patients from Valley Forge. These hospitals were at the site of the mineral springs, then a famous resort since 1750. While the springs still exist, they are little known today. Also used was the encampment hospital known as the Mansion House, at Valley Forge. From this background, follows the development of our general hospitals in the County at present. Chester County is proud of its humane record of hospital care. We have the Atkinson Memorial, established in 1932, and the Coatesville Hospital in Coatesville, established in 1899; the Chester County Hospital at West



The Chester County Hospital, West Chester

Chester, established in 1893; and the Memorial of Chester County, originally Homeopathic, established in 1912, name changed in 1945, at West Chester; the Community Hospital, established in 1925, at West Grove and succeeded by Community Memorial Hospital, near Jennersville, in 1959, on U.S. 1; in Phoenixville, the Phoenixville Hospital, established in 1893. Other hospitals are the Rush Memorial Hospital, established in 1900, on U.S. Route 202, near Malvern, for Tuberculosis and Geriatrics; the Valley Forge Army Hospital, established in 1943 near Phoenixville, in Charlestown Township, specializing in neuropsychiatry and tuberculosis; the Veterans Administration Hospital, established in 1930, at Coatesville, for the treatment of neurological and psychiatric disorders of war-time veterans. Both of these institutions are under Federal control. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania maintains the Embreeville State Hospital, established in 1941, at Embreeville, on Strasburg Road, in West Bradford Township, for mental disorders, and the Pennhurst School, established in 1907, near Spring City, in East Vincent Township off Pennsylvania Route 183, for the care and training of mentally defective children beyond nursery age.

## Agriculture

It was the farmer who elevated the County above the conditions in which it had been held by the Indians. From the 1680's until after the Centennial, the rest of Chester County had been chiefly of an agricultural and dairy economy. Today the principal agriculture products are cattle, corn, milk, truck farming, floriculture, mushroom, and poultry. Along with agriculture, some of the early nurseries were: Cherry Hill (Hoopes Bros. and Thomas, established in 1851), at West Chester, as well as the Morris Nurseries, established in 1851; Jason Mahan Nurseries, established in 1836, at Sadsbury; Dingee-Conard Nurseries, established in 1865, converting to roses in 1871, at West Grove, and in 1897 changing the name to Star Rose Company. They are the County's outstanding rose growers today, and are the oldest in America in rose growing experience. They are also the first to sell and ship roses by mail. Conard-Pyle Company, rose growers, was established in 1850 at West Grove. Blending with the agriculture program, are the Buck and Doe Run Valley Farms established in West Marlborough Township, Chester County in 1946, along Pennsylvania Route 82 between Unionville and Coatesville. These farms, comprising 10,000 acres owned and 2,000 acres leased, are maintained by the King Ranch of Kingsville, Texas, as grazing land. Annually, about May 1, each year, 6,000 steers are shipped from Texas, which are grazed on grass for six months, and then sold for slaughtering, serving the large consuming centers on the Eastern Seaboard. Those steers not sold are placed into feed lots for further fattening on corn to produce a top meat product. Color too is blended into the program by the presence of the southwestern plains cowboys working the herds.

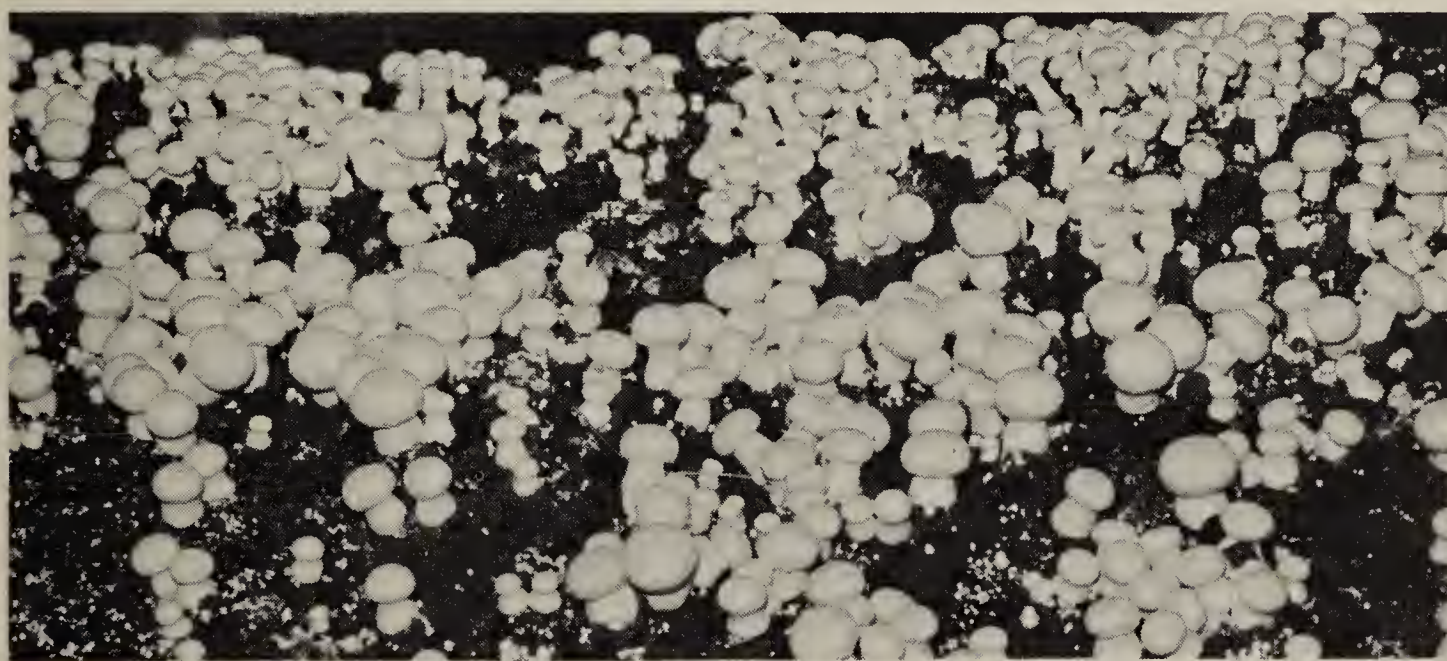




Grazing Lands, Buck & Doe Run Valley Farms of King Ranch, Unionville

## Mushroom Industry

Among the earliest pioneer growers, makers of spawn, and canners, the growers began about 1890, with William Swayne and Harry Hicks of Kennett Square, and William Sharpless of Toughkenamon. One of America's earliest spawn makers was L. F. Lambert, near Coatesville, which was acquired in 1928 by the Keystone Mushroom Company, established by Maurice Darlington and Richard Miller, who first grew mushrooms in 1900, at Green Lawn. The canning industry was begun by Edward H. Jacob of West Chester in 1917. Later came the Kennett Canning Company, established by J. B. Swayne and Norris A. Scott of Kennett Square, and Faucett and Hipple of West Chester, in 1925. The Grocery Store Products Company was the successor of Edward H. Jacob in 1929 and the Kennett Canning Company in 1930. Brandywine Mushroom Corporation, was the successor of Faucett and Hipple, in 1927. The first grower-canning group, was incorporated, in 1931, as the



Mushroom Growing



Mushroom Co-operative Canning Company, at Kennett Square. Not unlike the expansion of the growing industry expanding from Chester County across the Nation, the canning industry likewise has expanded from one small cannery in Chester County in 1917, across the Nation, keeping pace with America's growth, with at least twenty canners of importance by 1958.

The American Mushroom Institute, organized at Kennett Square in 1955, is dedicated to research and promotion of the consumption of cultivated mushrooms. Their research is conducted with the generous aid of the Pennsylvania State University, the Delaware State University, and the United States Department of Agriculture. The Institute has promoted the consumption of cultivated mushrooms through advertising, publicity, merchandising, and consumer education on a National level, and has aided immeasurably in keeping growers on a high and improved crop production, which also has aided vastly in expanding the industry. Approximately 90 per cent of the 400 growers in Chester County are members of The American Mushroom Institute, which now has a total membership of 650 throughout the United States. Chester County, Pennsylvania, is the world center of the cultivated mushroom industry, producing in excess of 65 million pounds of mushrooms annually, and its canneries in the County processing in excess of 70 per cent of the annual County production.

The estimated value of the diversified mushroom industry in Chester County is now in excess of \$50,000,000.00.

## Agriculture Census

The Agriculture Census for 1959, by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for Chester County, discloses there are 2,746 farms, of which 2,027 are commercial farms. Total county land in farms is 292,776 acres. The average size of farms is 106.6 acres. The average value of farms is \$58,165. Farm operators owning their own farms number 369. The average age of farm operators is 50.2 years. The number of farm operators over 65 is 496.

## Farm Organizations

Some of the early farm organizations were the Agricultural Society of Chester County 1820; the Chester County Horticultural Society 1848 to 1869, then reestablished by Charter in 1939; the Oxford Agriculture Society 1870; the Brandywine Farmers Club 1879. Today there are also the Chester-Delaware Pomona Grange; Farm Loan Association; Chester-Delaware Ayrshire Breeders Association; Chester County Guernsey Breeders Association; Chester County Holstein Breeders Association; Chester County Jersey Cattle Club; Chester-Delaware Fruit Growers Association; Producer's Co-operative Exchange; Mushroom Growers Co-operative Association; Chester County Farmers Association; Chester-Delaware Farm Bureau Co-operative Association; Chester County Flower Growers Association; Chester County Beekeepers Association; Chester-



Delaware County Poultry Association; American Mushroom Institute and the Middle Atlantic Carnation Growers.

## **Co-operative Agricultural Extension Association**

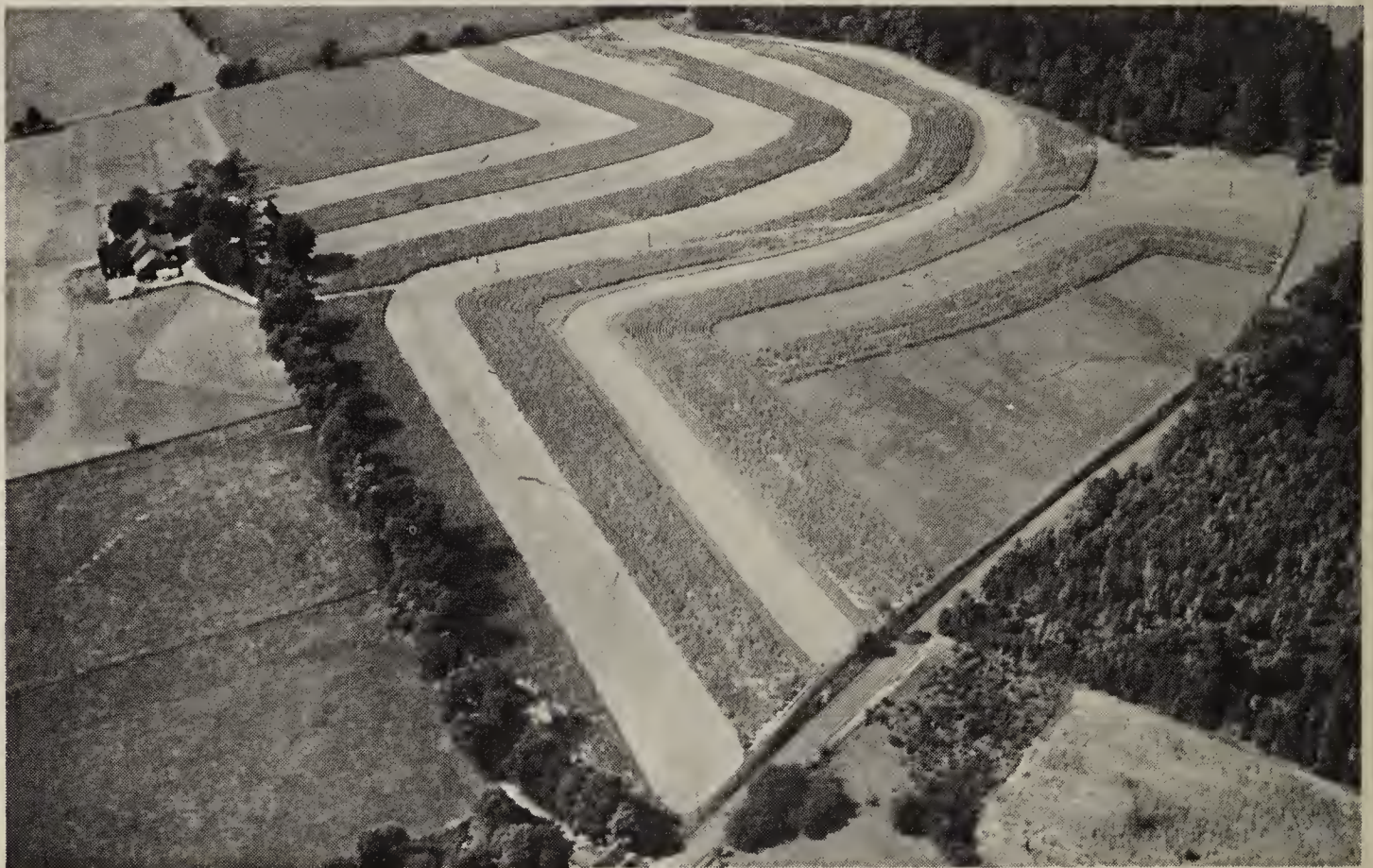
Following the Federal appropriations provided by the Smith-Lever Act of Congress in 1914, the Federal Extension Service was established for scientific guidance and co-operative agricultural extension work from the Pennsylvania State University, through the Agricultural Extension Service which was established in Chester County in 1914. The service for encouraging and developing the agricultural resources of the County are financed by Federal and State appropriations. These appropriations provide the salaries of the professional staff, who are members of the Pennsylvania State University faculty. The annual County appropriations provide local office space, office personnel, and staff traveling expenses. The purposes of the Extension Service are not measured by the amount of work which the Association will do for people, but rather by the amount of work and improvements which the Association can get the people to do for themselves. Space will not permit recording 47 years of accomplishments, but they may be determined at the Agricultural Extension Office at the Court House. From origin to date, this office has been directed by five County Agents and from the early 1930's, by four home economists.

## **Soil Conservation Service**

The Chester County Soil Conservation district was established by resolution of the County Commissioners in 1948. The County provides an annual appropriation for offices and equipment. Its activities are directed by a board of five members: officers, chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary-treasurer. The director, who is appointed from the Board of County Commissioners, is selected. The first four Farmer Directors appointed are designated to serve for terms of one, two, three, and four years respectively. Thereafter each Farmer Director serves for four years. The main purposes are to coordinate the work of agencies and organizations active in the field of soil and water conservation and to make basic services available to farmers and other land owners. Technicians of the service prepare soil and land capability maps, assist land owners in preparing a conservation plan, and set forth conservation practices and measures needed to maintain or increase production and protect the soil for years to come. Another purpose is to assist land owners to install these practices by making engineering surveys, designs, and layout, and to provide supervision of installation (without charge). Cooperating agencies are the United States Soil Conservation Service, Pennsylvania Department of Forest and Waters, Pennsylvania Game and Fish Commissions and Department of Highways, Brandywine Valley Association, Vocation Agricultural Departments, the Agricultural Extension Association, and the Pomona Grange.



Reports of the Service, ending with the period from origin to January 1, 1961, disclosed the following facts: the number of completed farm conservation agreements is 1,800, and the number of acres involved, 163,500. The number of land use capability surveys and maps completed, 1,650, involving 152,867 acres. The number of conservation plans developed, 1,372, covering 122,505 acres. Chester County always has been blessed with a fertile soil and a prosperous agriculture. The district is encouraged by progress made in conserving the valuable natural resources, hoping all county farmers will take steps in the near future to develop complete soil and water conservation programs on their lands. Soil and water conservation problems should be directed to the District Office, 405 Farmers and Mechanics Building, West Chester, from which referrals will be made to the Soil Conservation Service, at Court House Annex, West Chester.



Soil Conservation

## Brandywine Valley Association

Brandywine Valley Association was organized in 1945 as an incorporated, non-profit educational organization by a group of public spirited citizens. It is composed of a membership approximating 2,000 dues paying members and is directed by a thirty member board: officers, a president, vice-president, and treasurer who are assisted by a non-member staff of an executive vice-president, executive secretary and a secretary. The office is located in the Farmers and Mechanics Building, West Chester, Pennsylvania. The Association's basic purposes are to restore, conserve, and improve the natural resources and to eliminate pollution from towns and industries by proper treatment of wastes; to provide leadership in establishing the long range water





Brandywine Valley Association Water Shed

supply, flood controls and recreation for the Brandywine Valley; encourage through education the residents in the 330 square mile water-shed area to make the wisest use of all their natural resources. The Association is financed completely by membership dues.

## Red Clay Valley Association

The Red Clay Valley Association was organized in 1952 under procedures similar to those of the Brandywine Valley Association. The Association has a membership of more than 300 and is directed by a board composed of a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, assisted by an executive director (who is the Executive Secretary of Brandywine Valley Association). The office address is P.O. Box 38, Yorklyn, Delaware. The Brandywine Valley Association by contract agreement operates and directs the Association. Its purposes are to eliminate pollution, to encourage conservation practices on the land, to provide information on the water resources of the valley, to make available conservation education materials to all schools in the water-shed. By surveys and in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey, a proven underground water supply has been established in the district. The Red Clay Creek drains 50 square miles of land in the area from Unionville, Pennsylvania, through Kennett Square to Stanton, Delaware.





The Famous Longwood Gardens, Anvil



## Longwood Gardens

Longwood Gardens is one of the most important horticultural show places in the country. It is located at Anvil, east of Kennett Square in East Marlborough Township, at the intersection of Pennsylvania Route 53 and U.S. 1. Its water gardens, greenhouses, arboretum, fountain displays, stately conservatories, with its vast pipe organ (one of the largest ever built) are renowned among beauty lovers nationally. The gardens are operated by the Longwood Foundation, a non-profit philanthropic organization created by Pierre S. duPont, in 1937. By terms of its Charter and stipulation in Mr. duPont's will, the foundation is charged with the care, perpetuation, and improvements of the Gardens for charitable and public enjoyment. The Gardens are open every day of the year without charge. Since first opened in 1921, more than four million visitors have seen the Gardens, and the attendance now totals more than 300,000 annually. Longwood is rich in historical significance. It is part of a plot conveyed to George Pierce, in 1702, by William Penn. The Battle of Brandywine was fought within gunshot of the present Gardens. The poet-novelist, Bayard Taylor, lived nearby; in fact "Longwood," a narrow wooded strip on the premises, figures in his celebrated novel, "The Story of Kennett." The original brick dwelling, later the residence of Mr. and Mrs. duPont, dates from 1730. The property was an underground railway station stop and a gathering point for run-away slaves. The 1,000 acre plot containing many species of flowers, shrubs, plants, and trees from all parts of the world, as well as being a bird sanctuary, has been transformed by Mr. duPont into one of the best known and best loved gardens and centers of culture in the world.



Swiss Pines Park, Bartschi Foundation, Charlestown



## **Swiss Pines Park—Bartschi Foundation**

This foundation was founded of recent date as a non-profit organization to promote educational, scientific, research, charitable, and literary activities in the fields of horticulture, ornithology, and conservation for the general public recreation. The Foundation has the responsibility to establish, maintain, operate and develop a public park known as "Swiss Pines." It is located on Pennsylvania Route 15049, between Devault and Charlestown, in Charlestown Township, north of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. It is presently concentrating on creating and restoring slender five needle Swiss pines, brought from world travels by William H. Llewellyn back in the early twenties, and in re-arranging the Japanese Gardens of stone lions, toads, lanterns, and buddhas over a four acre site. Eventually groups of native and foreign shrubs will flourish over nearly fifteen acres, some landscaped as gardens, others retained in their natural habits for wild life, with 3,000 red and white pines, spruce, and larch in the plantation. The other 200 acres will grow wild with woods, streams, gardens, fields, and meadows. It is open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Conducted educational tours by appointment. The sanctuary is operated by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

## **Primitive Hall Foundation**

This foundation was established by Mr. Stewart Huston, of Coatesville, Pennsylvania, and opened to the public, October 16, 1961. The site, located in the orchard on the grounds of the Primitive Hall Foundation, consists of approximately 2½ acres, in West Marlborough Township, on Pennsylvania route 841, south from Green Lawn to Chatham. Its purposes are to restore the brick mansion (Primitive Hall) to its original grandeur, eventually to become a library and museum, and to create a recreation area, which now includes facilities of picnic tables, charcoal braziers, running water, sanitation and parking areas.

## **Sharp's Woods Reserve**

This reserve of over 15 acres of woodland and Darby Creek running through a tall growth of oak, beech, and other deciduous trees, was acquired in 1959, from the Estate of Mary B. S. Morris, through the interest of Miss Ellenor Morris, by the Philadelphia Conservationist. The reserve is situated in Easttown Township, bounded by Darby Road, Leopard Road and one mile south of Sugartown Road. Its purposes are for the preservation of a natural park area, and for the development of nature education, nature trails, wild life, plant survey, property and habitat.

## **Chester County Art Association**

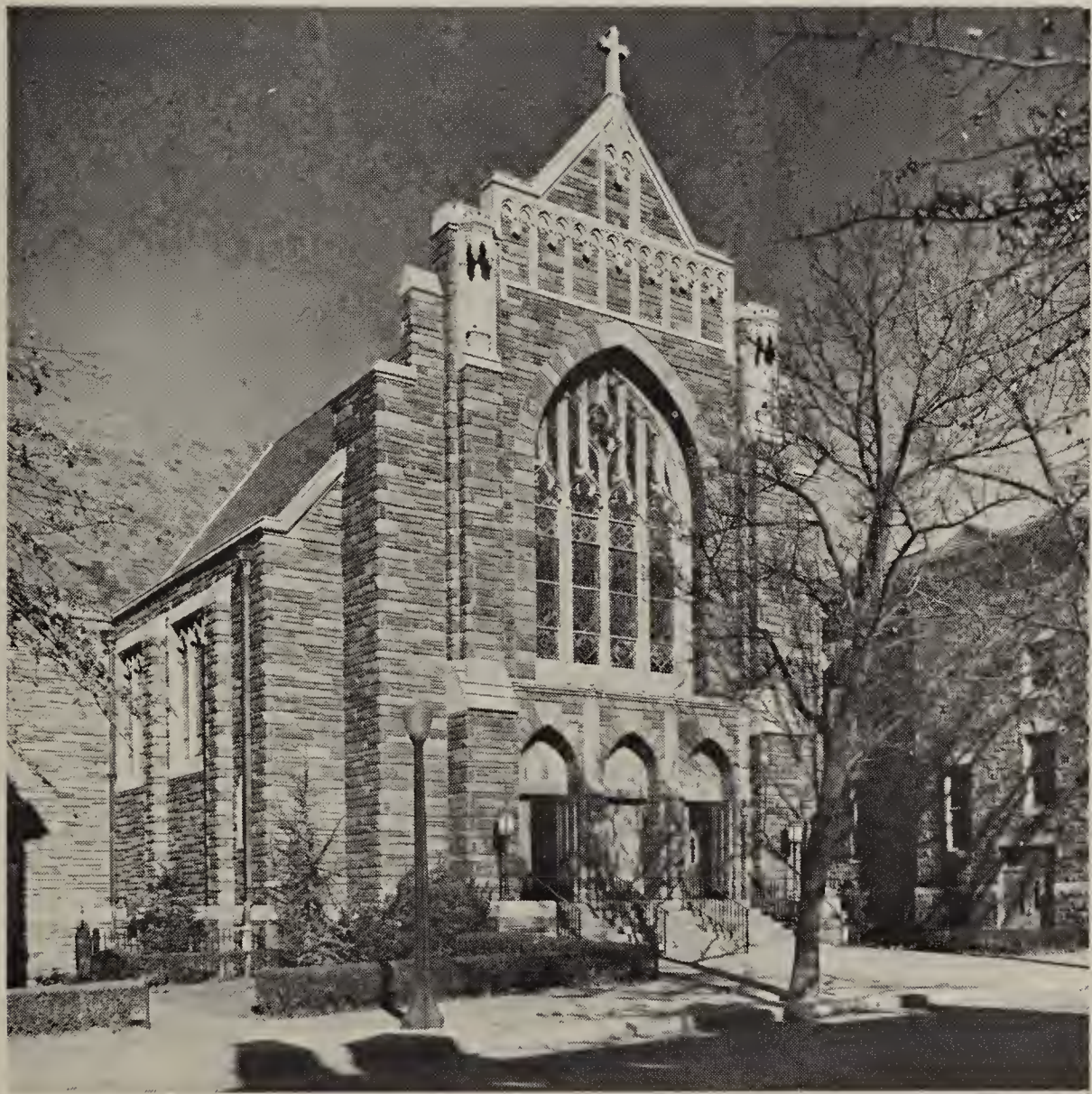
This association was founded in 1931, and incorporated in West Chester



1933, as a non-profit corporation. Its purposes are to lawfully further the promotion of the cultivation of the fine and applied arts. The new Art Center building, which includes a large gallery, opened in 1953, is located on North Bradford Avenue, West Chester. The current membership is approximately 700 persons.

# Native Sons and Daughters Achieving National Recognition

Smedley D. Butler	General, Marine Corps
Dr. William Darlington	Scientist
John Fritz	Iron Manufacturer
Dr. Isaac H. Hayes	Surgeon—Explorer
Rebecca Lukens	Female Industrialist
Humphrey Marshall	Astronomer—Botanist—Author
Thomas McKean	Signer of Declaration of Independence
George Morris Philips	Education
Samuel W. Pennypacker	Author—Historian—Governor of Pennsylvania

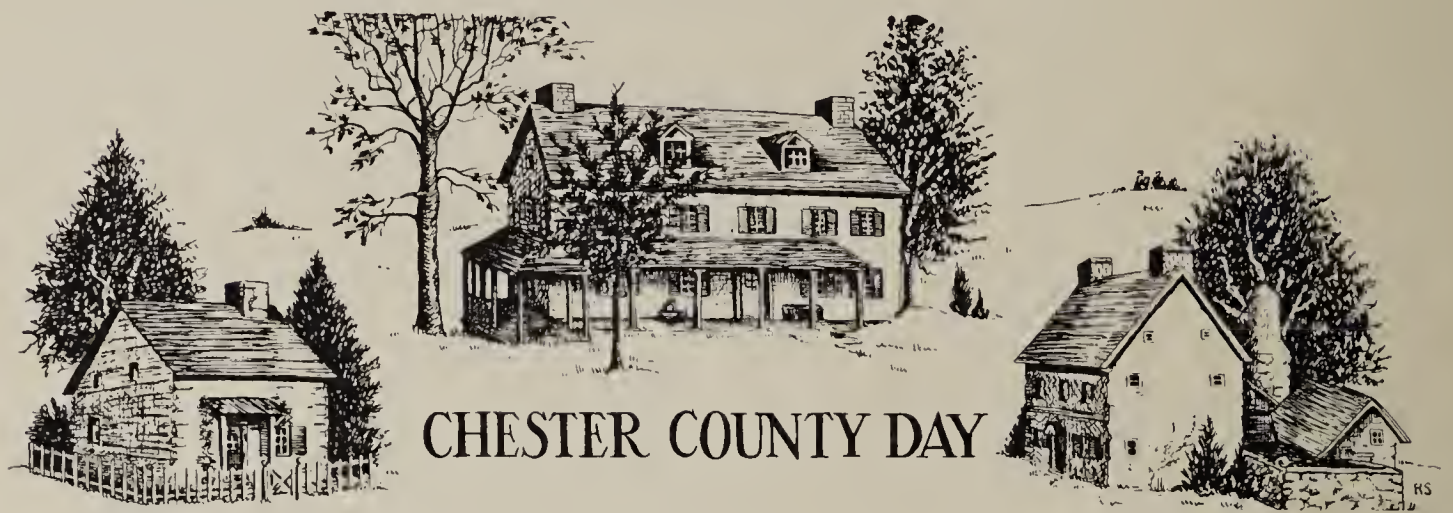


St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church, West Chester



Thomas Buchanan Read  
 Mark Sullivan  
 William Marshall Swayne  
 Bayard Taylor  
 Anthony Wayne

Poet—Painter—Sculptor  
 Historian—Columnist  
 Sculptor  
 Poet—Diplomat—Traveler  
 General, Revolutionary War



Chester County's natural charms have been proverbial since the days of William Penn: abundant streams, fertile valleys, rock and mineral-laden hills with a great variety of trees and a wealth of plants and shrubs. From the rugged Welsh Mountains across the Great Valley to the gently rolling cattle country of the southwestern area, Chester County's remarkably varied topography resembles an old time quilt with the beloved Brandywine meandering through patches of historic yesterdays and proud todays while "sowing the fields and woods together with its silver thread." Such an area with plentiful building materials attracted many well-to-do early settlers whose stone and brick houses—simple, sturdy and beautiful—are still landmarks along the great roads that crossed old Chester County. A great deal of history "happened" in this part of Penn's "green countrie" and Chester Countians, wisely realizing the importance of the past, have made this history an integral part of their lives. With a heritage so deeply rooted and revered, it is not at all surprising that one of America's largest "Open House" days should have developed here. Since 1936, on the first Saturday in October, public spirited owners of old and historic homes have welcomed thousands of guests for the annual tour called Chester County Day. At first the guests were local residents only, but attendance has spiralled to last year's all-time high of over four thousand persons representing twenty-two states. Historic landmarks form the background for the forty or so places visited each year as the Day explores different areas of the County. Since its inception, this completely volunteer project, the work of some five hundred women annually, has raised over \$100,000.00 for charity. The fascinating story of Chester County now reaches the entire nation through the publications of this project which have won two Freedom's Foundation Awards and a George Washington Honor Medal for "outstanding achievement in helping to bring about a better understanding of



the American Way of Life." Chester County Day, Box 1, West Chester, Pennsylvania.



Waynesborough—Home of Gen. Anthony Wayne, Paoli

## Freedoms Foundation

At the base of our National Shrine—Valley Forge—in Chester County on Pennsylvania Route 23, to Phoenixville, we have, filling an urgent need, a patriotic Center serving as a marshalling point for the active forces of freedom, known as Freedoms Foundation. The Foundation was founded 1949. Non-profit, non-sectarian, non-partisan and non-political, the Foundation's sole purpose is to encourage all Americans to understand and defend the rights, freedoms and responsibilities they enjoy as Americans under our constitutional democratic form of government, and to undergird our constitutional Republic and combat the increasing threat of Socialist Communism to the American Way of Life. Using the free enterprise principal of incentive and reward, Freedoms Foundation conducts an annual National Awards program based on the American Credo which reaches into Main Street, U.S.A., encouraging and stimulating citizens of every age level to think, write, speak and act in behalf of the American Way of Life. The Foundation has no capital funds, nor endowments. It is supported through the tax-exempt membership subscriptions of individuals, corporation and other foundations.



# BACKGROUND OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT

## Court House

The original Court House was erected at Upland (now Chester) in 1679, and replaced in 1724. Because of the distance and the hardship interior citizens experienced traveling to the County Seat, a movement was made, led by Colonel John Hannum, of Goshen, to remove the Court House to the Turk's Head area. This war-like movement was resisted by the people of Chester during a temporary halt in the construction of the new Court House and adjoining jail and jail yard, but upon arrival they found the new work ably defended. This resulted in an armistice, and the County Seat was removed to its present site in 1786. At the northwest corner of High and Market Streets a new records building was constructed in 1791. The present Court House was erected in 1874. The jail was replaced in 1839, located at New and Market Streets in West Chester.

The present clock on the Court House was purchased in 1835, and installed in 1836.

From the three original counties, since 1878, Pennsylvania **has been divided** into sixty-seven Counties. The Constitution of 1874 prohibits local or special laws from erecting additional new counties. Following the three original counties, the next sixty-three counties were created prior to the Constitution. The youngest county by decree of Act, under General Act (since repealed) created Lackawanna County in 1878.

**The Boundaries of our present County**, as established, are located in the Southeastern corner of Pennsylvania, bordered on the South by the States of Delaware and Maryland, 1763; East by Delaware County, erected in 1789; North by Montgomery County, erected in 1784; Northwest by Berks County, erected in 1752; and West by Lancaster County, erected in 1729.

**The Area of the County** is forty-five miles in length, thirty miles wide, and seven hundred sixty square miles, or 486,400 acres. The approximate land use today in acres and percentage—

Agricultural	293,000	60.2
Industrial	2,500	.5
Residential	33,000	6.8
Vacant Land, Woods & Parks	157,900	32.5

Chester County has a total of seventy-three sub-divisions; fifty-six, second class townships; one first class township; fifteen boroughs, and one city. Chester County is a Fourth Class County, determined by population as provided by the State Legislature. There are nine other fourth class counties in the State,



namely: Beaver, Cambria, Dauphin, Fayette, Lehigh, Northampton, Schuylkill, Washington and York. Counties of this class have a population of from 150,000 to 250,000.

**The Federal Census of Chester County  
for Each 10 Years From 1790-1960**

1790.....	29,937
1800.....	32,093
1810.....	39,569
1820.....	44,451
1830.....	50,910
1840.....	57,545
1850.....	66,438
1860.....	74,578
1870.....	77,805
1880.....	83,481
1890.....	89,377
1900.....	90,695
1910.....	109,213
1920.....	115,120
1930.....	126,629
1940.....	135,626
1950.....	159,141
1960.....	210,608

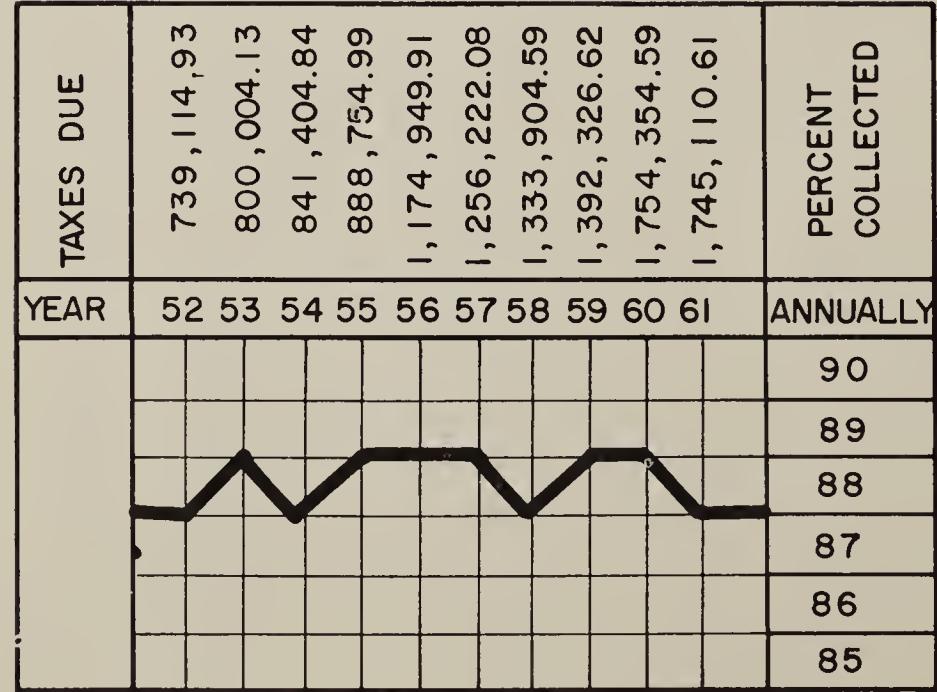
TOWNSHIPS CREATED	DATE	1960 POP.	TOWNSHIPS CREATED	DATE	1960 POP.
Birmingham	1684	453	West Fallowfield	1743	1425
East Bradford	1705	1713	Franklin	1852	817
West Bradford	1705	1894	East Goshen	1704	1694
East Brandywine	1790	1618	West Goshen	1817	8214
West Brandywine	1844	1675	Highland	1853	1029
Caln	1702	6685	Honeybrook	1789	1584
East Caln	1728	758	Kennett	1855	3026
West Caln	1744	2140	London Britain	1725	686
Charlestown	1737	1931	Londonderry	1734	718
North Coventry	1841	4367	London Grove	1723	2734
East Coventry	1718	2183	East Marlborough	1704	2417
South Coventry	1841	1212	West Marlborough	1730	901
Easttown	1704	6907	East Nantmeal	1739	730
Elk	1857	593	West Nantmeal	1740	968
East Fallowfield	1714	2745	New Garden	1700	3718



New London	1704	845	Schuylkill	1826	3461
Newlin	1724	1477	Thornbury	1687	746
East Nottingham	1702	2298	Tredyffrin	1706	16004
West Nottingham	1715	1137	Uwchlan	1712	995
Lower Oxford	1797	2007	Upper Uwchlan	1858	909
Upper Oxford	1754	997	Valley	1852	3101
Penn	1817	1097	East Vincent	1832	5453
Pennsbury	1770	936	West Vincent	1832	1431
East Pikeland	1838	2817	Wallace	1852	1065
West Pikeland	1838	782	Warwick	1842	1436
Pocopson	1849	1315	Westtown	1685	1947
Sadsbury	1717	2066	East Whiteland	1704	5078
West Sadsbury	1878	1102	West Whiteland	1704	4412
Willistown		1704	6492		

BOROUGHS INCORPORATED			1960 POP.	BOROUGHS INCORPORATED			1960 POP.
DATE				DATE			
Atglen	1875	721		Malvern	1889	2268	
Avondale	1894	1016		Modena	1921	859	
Coatesville	1867	see city		Oxford	1833	3376	
South Coatesville	1921	2032		Parkesburg	1872	2759	
Downingtown	1859	5598		Phoenixville	1849	13797	
Elverson	1911	472		Spring City	1867	3162	
Honeybrook	1892	1023		West Chester	1799	15705	
Kennett Square	1855	4355		West Grove	1893	1607	

CITY CHARTERED	DATE	1960 POPULATION
Coatesville	1915	12,971



Result of collection of County taxes over the past ten years averaged .886%



# COUNTY FINANCES

## DEPOSITORIES — SAFEGUARDING FUNDS

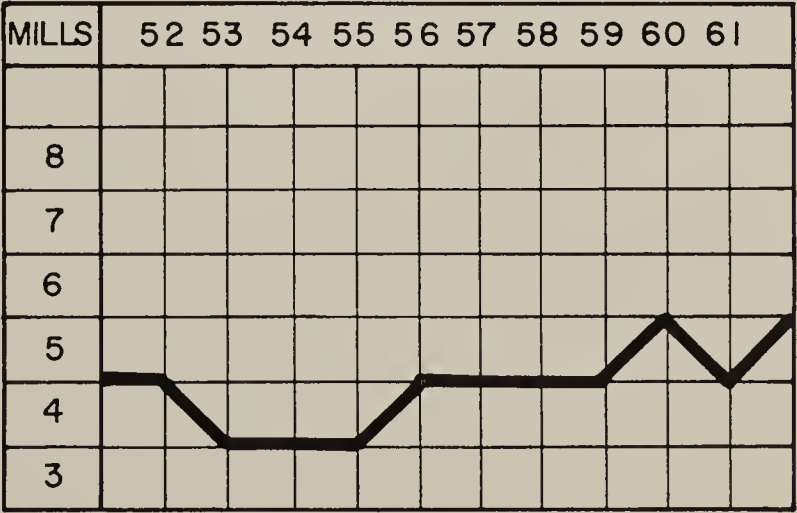
### Tax Collection Procedure

Tax collectors are elected to office for a term of four years and perform the duties thereof, collecting the local taxes in their communities. The County Assessors office prepares and mails all County tax bills, which are payable directly to the County Treasurer. The Assessor also prepares the assessment roll lists, and distributes to the local collectors on or about May 1st, annually, containing thereon the taxpayers names. As required by law, the tax collector must qualify by filing bond and satisfying other legal requirements. The Collector is required to submit monthly reports to the local agencies of all local taxes collected and remitted. Tax collectors are paid a percentage, and in some instances are paid salaries, for all taxes collected. Expenses for postage, supplies and insurance bond in addition are permitted, for which he is reimbursed.

### Collection of Delinquent Taxes

In compliance with Act of 1947, known as "The Real Estate Sales Law," Chester County established a Tax Claim Bureau, which consolidated the former duties of the County Treasurer, with direct supervision under the Commissioners in all pertinent matters concerning the collection of taxes and sales of Real Estate for non-payment of taxes. The duties are performed by a department chief, and two assistants, appointed by the Commissioners. Current taxes become delinquent if unpaid by November 1st, each year. Penalties of five per cent are added after November 1st. If still unpaid by the first Monday in May the succeeding year, they become a matter of the Tax Claim Bureau, and an interest penalty of one-half per cent per month is added to the balance already accumulated. It is then the Delinquent Tax Collector is immediately appointed by the Treasurer for that year, and is charged with the collection of all delinquent county taxes. Remittance for current tax collections are made directly to the County Treasurer, while delinquent tax collections are made to the Tax Claim Bureau. Operating

1962 Tax Rate: 6 Mills





under this law, gives the advantage to the property owner by permitting him to make quarterly payments on his delinquent taxes, all within one year; and the County benefits, in that it allows the Bureau to sell, free and clear of all encumbrances, and to issue a Deed in Fee simple for the property sold, except in certain circumstances—first mortgages.

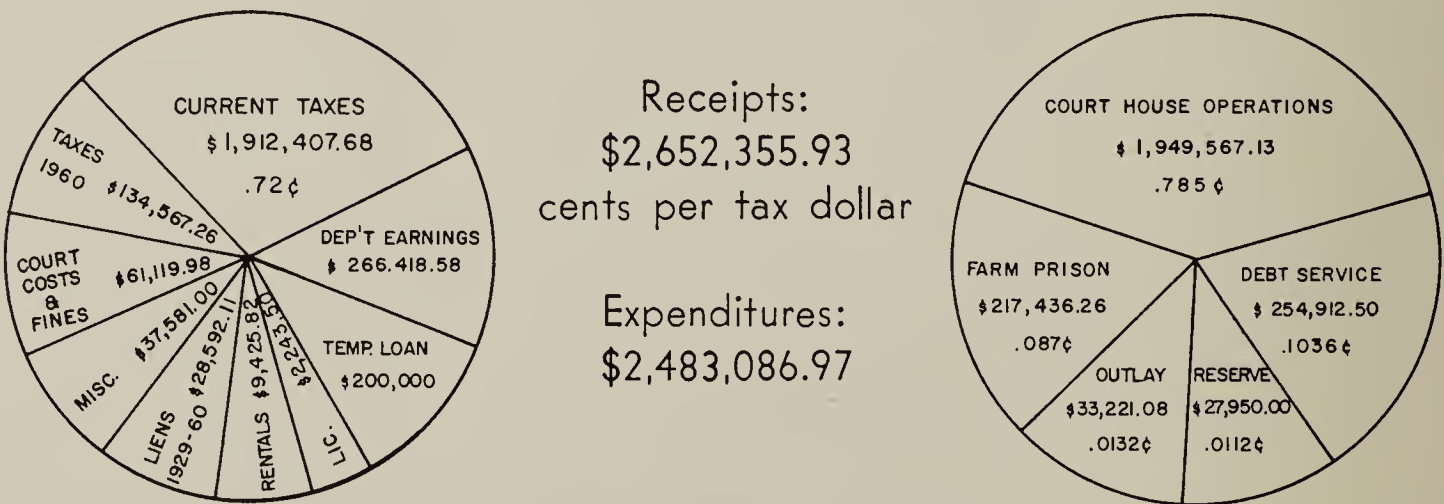
### Government Operation Costs

As a citizen, taxpayer of Chester County, you contribute by your taxes to the cost of County government operations. In Fourth Class Counties like Chester County, government today has developed into "Big Business," and as such, approved business practices and policies are continually practiced, making for efficiency and economy. Government economic housekeeping operations of the County are reflected by the Real Estate Tax Rate millage over the past ten years, averaging less than five mills, in the face of consistent rising costs, rapid expansion and modern improvements.

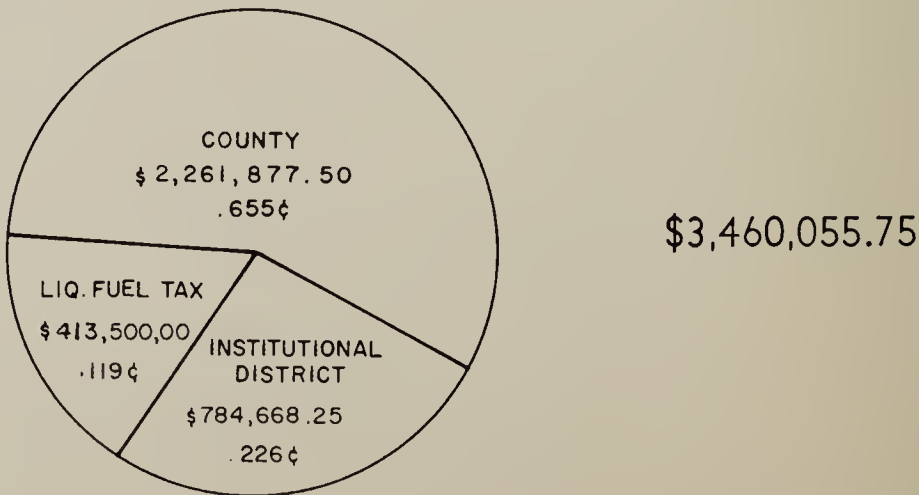
The millage rate now reflected is for the County, which includes the operation of the Institution District, since the latter was abolished as of January 1, 1962.

Chester County is among those Counties with the lowest combined tax rates in the State. From time to time, the necessity for Capital expenditures,

### General Fund Receipts and Expenditures—1961

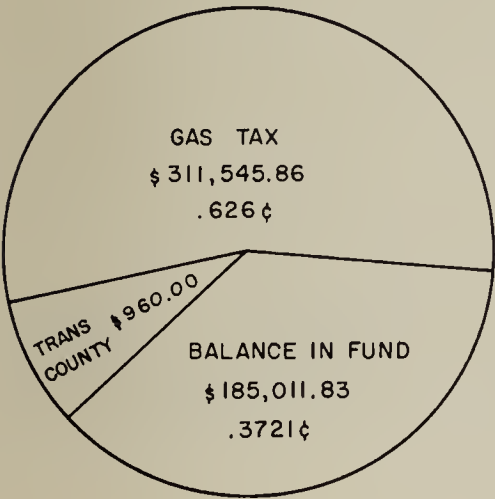


### Total County Budget—1961



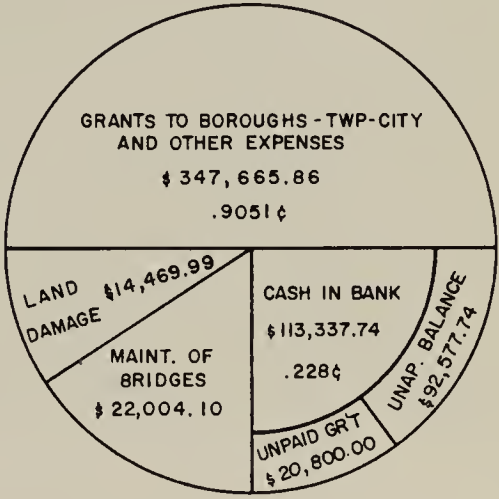
as recommended by Citizens Survey Committees, for expansion and new construction have necessitated Bond Issues, rather than considering tax increases. The first of these issues was for the Institution District in 1949, for the new Pocopson Home, at Pocopson, of \$1,200,000.00; the next, for the County in 1955, for demolition of part of the Old Annex and New Orphans' Court building addition to rear, thereof, \$250,000.00, and third in 1957, for the new

### Liquid Fuels Receipts and Expenditures—1961

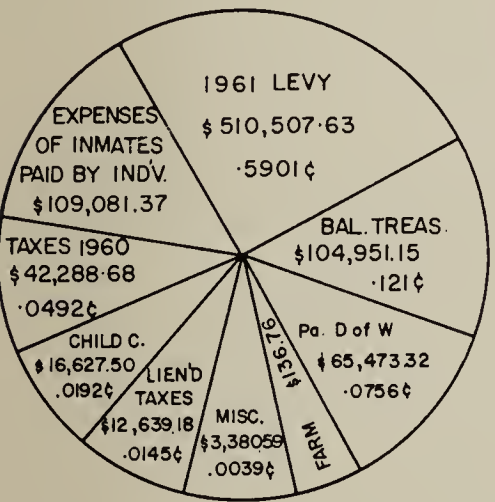


Receipts:  
\$497,517.69

Expenditures:  
\$384,139.95

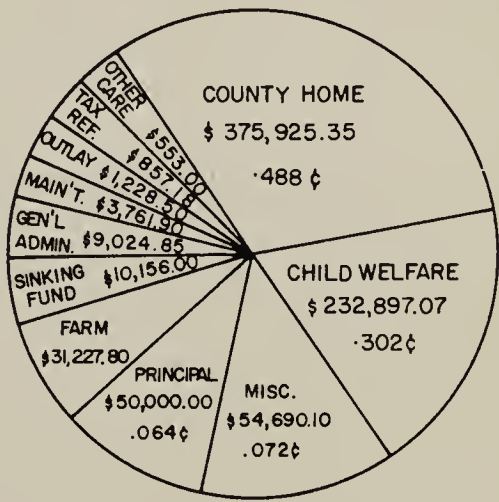


### Institution District Receipts and Expenditures—1961

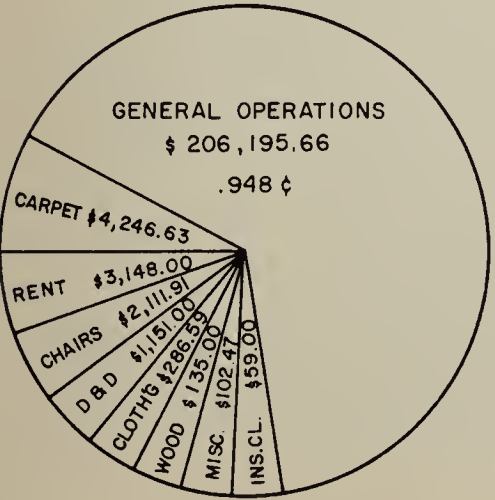


Receipts:  
\$865,086.18  
cents per tax dollar

Expenditures:  
\$770,321.56  
cents per tax dollar

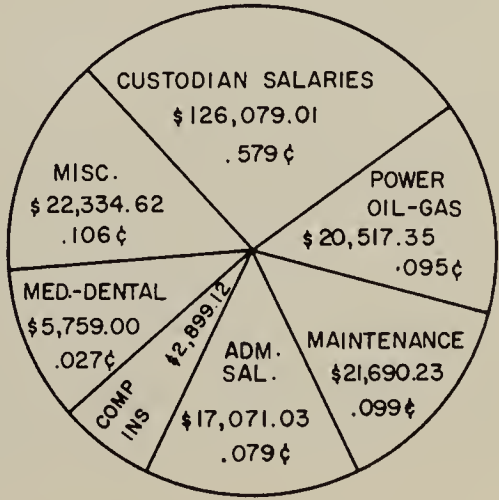


### Chester County Farms Receipts and Expenditures—1961

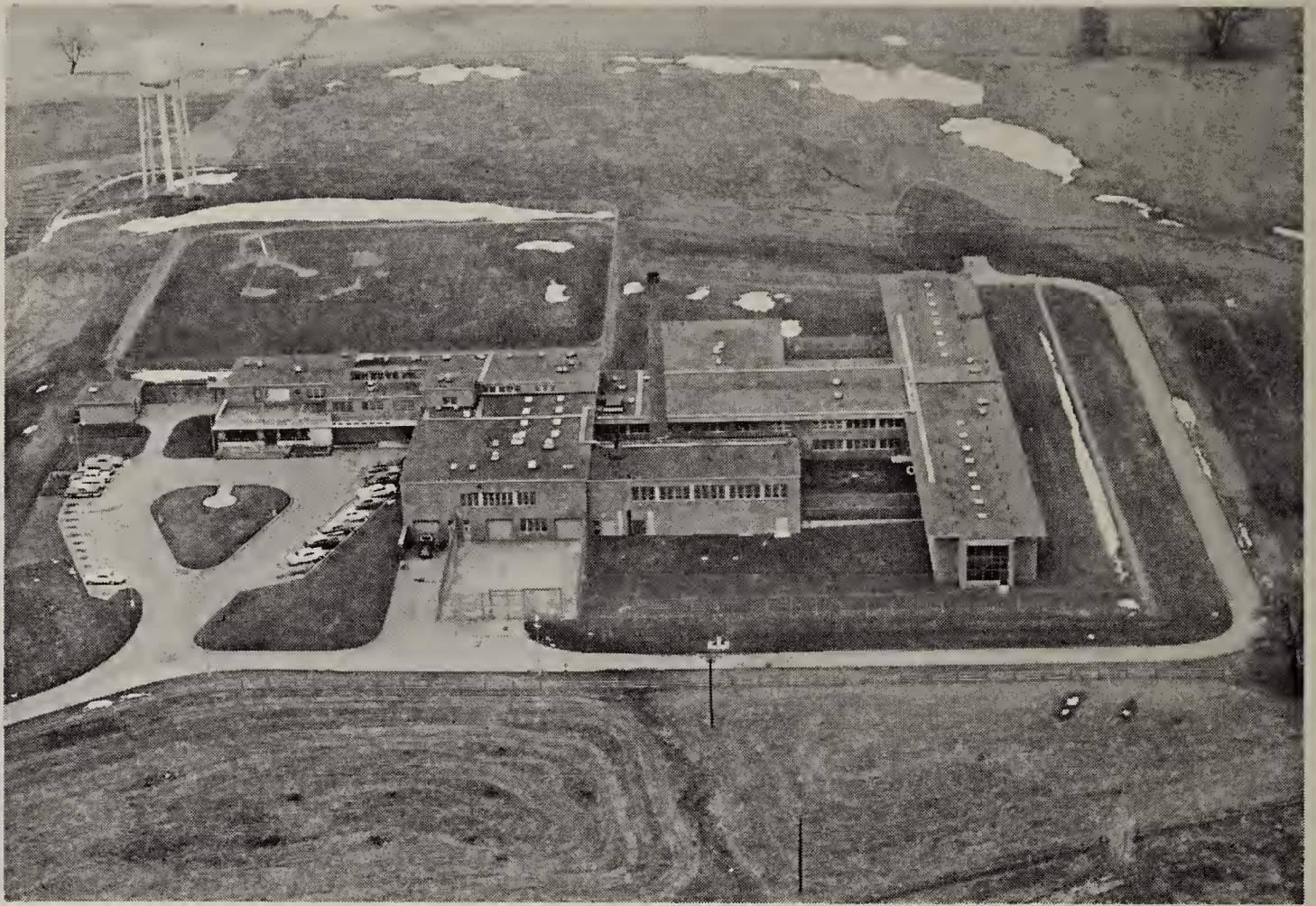


Receipts:  
\$217,436.26  
cents per tax dollar

Expenditures:  
\$217,436.26  
cents per tax dollar







Chester County Farms, Pocopson

Chester County Farms Prison, at Pocopson, for \$3,350,000.00. The total bonded indebtedness of \$4,800,000.00, is now reduced to \$3,510,000.00, December 31, 1961. Average interest rate less than 3 per cent.

## General Fund Receipts

The County's income is derived principally from Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes. Other sources are from fee offices, and miscellaneous revenues such as commissions, interest, rentals, and fines. Gross revenue from fee offices are turned over to the County's general fund, after which expenses of operation of the fee offices are deducted. The Personal Property Tax is levied by Act of Legislature setting uniform rate in the State except Allegheny and Philadelphia Counties. Real Estate Tax rate is established by the County Commissioners upon figures developed by the Board of Assessment and Revision of Taxes, of Chester County.

## Safeguarding Funds

Safeguarding funds of County is practiced by general supervision and control over fiscal affairs, and of accounts of all offices collecting or disbursing County Funds, by the Controller, an elective officer of the County. Vouchers for payment of all County obligations are drawn by the Controller and submitted to the County Commissioners. Checks are signed by the





Birmingham Friends Meeting House

Aerial View of Lincoln University, Lincoln University, Pa.





Commissioners, Controller and Treasurer. County funds are kept in various depositories within the County, each of which is determined and designated by the Commissioners and the Treasurer by resolution. This is generally done some time in mid January, following the election of the County Treasurer. Upon designation and qualification of such depositories, the County Treasurer shall immediately transfer thereto all County funds. By law, the depositories must be in banks, banking institutions or trust companies located within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It will be noted, Chester County's depositories, by custom, are all within the County. For future protection, each depository chosen shall furnish a Bond to secure payment of deposits and such interest as may accrue to the County, or in lieu of such a Bond, Securities may be placed in escrow with the Federal Reserve Bank. The County Commissioners, Controller and his Deputy, the County Treasurer and all his employees, as well as other employees entrusted with collecting or disbursing County funds are Bonded. Employees of the Treasurer's office are finger printed. Burglary insurance is carried on the Treasurer's office and vault, as is messenger insurance on funds transported to or from a depository. The Voucher system provides for attaching the check to the vouchers so that one entry covers all needs. They are made up in one original and one copy. The original is attached to the bill and filed in the Controller's Office. The first copy is filed separately in the Controller's Office. This system requires each officer to sign only once for check and voucher.



G. O. Carlson, Inc., Coatesville Plant





Aerial View, Lukens Steel Co., Coatesville



# INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

## Early Pioneers

Among the early pioneers in the development of industry and commerce, the northern townships of Coventry, Nantmeal and Vincent, were the first to have an industrial development in the County. As early as 1717, while still a province, Coventry Forge was established, and was the oldest leading iron center in Pennsylvania. The first steel in America was manufactured in 1732, at Coventry, located on the French Creek. Reading Furnace was first erected at Coventry Forge, in 1720. Warwick Furnace (Potts-Iron) was founded in 1737, and was famed for its stoves, pots, kettles, andirons, clock weights, revolutionary cannons and cannon balls. Valley Forge Furnace was founded in 1757, and destroyed by the British in 1777. Hopewell Furnace, now in Berks County, was erected in 1770. Isabella Furnace was erected in 1830. The nineteenth century saw the same industry promote the growth of Coatesville, Parkesburg and Phoenixville. Lukens Steel Company, the first rolling mill not only in Chester County but in the nation, was established in East Fallowfield Township at Rokeby by Isaac Pennock about 1793. Located on Buck Run, it was known as the "Federal Slitting Mill." Dr. Charles Lukens, after marrying Isaac Pennock's daughter, Rebecca, joined in a partnership with his father-in-law. In 1816 the Doctor and his wife moved to Coatesville where he operated under lease the Brandywine Iron Works, established in 1810. It was here Doctor Lukens thus became the pioneer in this phase of iron manufacturing, and where the first boiler plate was made in Pennsylvania and very probably the first in America. This mill before the turn of the century was then held to be the world's largest plate-mill, and one of the oldest continuous steel manufacturers in the nation. The first charcoal plate rolled in the United States was turned out here in 1820. Subsequent to Dr. Lukens death in 1825, his widow, Rebecca, successfully continued and expanded operations for many years, and she in later years became known as the outstanding woman industrial executive of her time. Today, Lukens Steel Company is Chester County's outstanding industry, employing over 5,000. It is the third largest producer of steel plate in America. Steel ingot making capacity annually is 930,000 tons.

## Phoenix Iron Company

The Phoenix Iron Company was founded at Phoenixville in 1783. The property of Jonas Thompson, it was renamed Phoenix Iron Works in 1813, and continued without much success until 1828, manufacturing nails principally. Following acquisition of the property at a Sheriff Sale by Reeves and Whitaker,



the new ownership materially increased and improved the works. Equal to, if not superior to, any rolling mill in the world, surpassing in size the then mighty "Krupp Works" in Germany, it manufactured iron for railroads, fancy works, bridges, beams and joists for building, and ribs and decks for iron ships. Controlling interest remained with the Reeves family until 1944, when it was acquired by its present owners, The Phoenix Steel Company, a subsidiary of Barium Steel Corporation, who also that same year acquired the Phoenix Bridge Company. This company is now the third largest producer of structural steel in America, employing over 2,000.

## **J. Bishop and Company**

In the precious metals field, gold and platinum for industrial use, is J. Bishop and Company, founded in 1842 in Philadelphia by Joaquin Bishop. This company transferred their operations to Sugartown, in Chester County in 1865, and, because of fire, finally established at Malvern in 1903. Subsequent growth started with platinum hypodermic tubing, then in 1931 stainless steel hypodermic tubing. It also produces specialties from tubing of many different alloys. Its expanded plant now includes a new modern tube mill of 165,000 square feet just south of U.S. 30, about a mile west of Malvern.

## **Majolica China**

In the late 1800's, near Phoenixville, the firm of Griffith, Smith and Hill was established, manufacturing the now famous "Phoenixville Etruscan Majolica China," the Gold Medal Winner at the New Orleans World's Fair in 1884.

## **Parkesburg Iron Works**

Later, following the closing of the Philadelphia Columbia Car Shops in Parkesburg in 1851, the Parkesburg Iron Works was established by H. A. Beale & Company, when they converted the shops to manufacturing of skelp and flue iron. It was abandoned upon the death of Mr. H. A. Beale's son, Mr. H. A. Beale, Jr., on or about 1926.

## **Downingtown Paper Company**

The family of John Frederick Bicking, beginning in 1750, established a paper mill near Philadelphia. Later, three of five sons were paper makers. Joseph built a mill at Wagontown, West Brandywine Township; John at Fisherville, in East Brandywine Township, the first in Chester County. Still later, a great grandson of John Frederick Bicking founded the first paper mill in Downingtown in 1881. The capacity of this mill now is forty to fifty tons a day.



## McAvoy Vitrified Brick Company

It was founded in 1895 by Thomas Bell McAvoy, located in Schuylkill Township between Valley Forge and Phoenixville on the farm owned by the Penny-packer family. Today this site has been developed into a modern plant with approximately 500 acres of land, from which their brick ingredient sources of clay and shale comes in more than ample supply. The standard brick is  $2\frac{1}{4}'' \times 3\frac{3}{4}'' \times 8''$ . Other sizes may be made. Different colored bricks are developed by sand blast, to give colors of red, buff and misty white.



Interior view McAvoy Brick,  
Phoenixville

## Minerals

Aiding early industry as well as present industry are the minerals, the most common of which are: magnesia, kalin, lead ore, iron ore, chrome, serpentine, red shale, secondary limestone, white sandstone, primitive limestone, talc and mica slate, gneiss and traprock. Along with these were an abundant water power, farm products, good network of roads, rail facilities, communications, and skilled, intelligent labor. In addition to those engaged in the early iron industry, the tax assessment rolls transcripts disclose an abundance of craftsmen in all trades and skills, appropriate for producing goods for local consumption. Prudent expansion with sound investment blended with an ideal location from which to do business, and with its people living culturally as well as economically, industry and agriculture have expanded side by side with a balanced economy. From these early foundations, many other diversified industries have developed throughout the County, equally as interesting and noteworthy up to and including the present atomic era, or space age.

## Some of the Pioneers in This Space Age Are:

### Aeroprojects Incorporated

Aeroprojects Incorporated, established here at the County Seat in 1948 as a research center, now has carried the name into the inner sanctums of some of America's largest companies, and those of the Country's defense arms. Highly successful in research of electronics, physics, metallurgy, mechanical design, it has many patents granted and others pending. Also, through its subsidiary, Sonobond-Corporation, it produces and markets ultra-sonic metal joining equipment.



## Burroughs Corporation Research Center

In the field of automation, the Burroughs Corporation Research Center, organized in Philadelphia in 1949, transferred its activities to Chester County with three new modern facilities of over 250,000 square feet. The name was changed in 1960 to Burroughs Laboratories. The first division, "Research Center," was established in 1954. The second division, "Military Systems," was established in 1956. Both are located in Paoli, on Central Avenue and U. S. route 202. The third division, "Great Valley Laboratory," was established in 1958 on Pennsylvania Route 15132 (Swedesford Road) just north of Malvern. This company is meeting the demand for computers and ultra high speed printing techniques, the seaward extension of "Sage," and the initial stabilization data computers for Polaris carrying submarines and navigation, ballistic missiles, air craft bombing and communications systems.

## G. O. Carlson, Incorporated

G. O. Carlson, Incorporated, was founded by G. O. Carlson, in the early 1930's. Production of Stainless Steel tailor-made plates was begun in 1937.



Downingtown Paper Co., Downingtown

The firm was incorporated in 1940. Its main office is in Thorndale. Production, engineering and laboratory facilities are centered at the company's Viaduct Plant in Coatesville, meeting the growing demands in metal working, chemical process, nuclear energy, aircraft and missile industries.

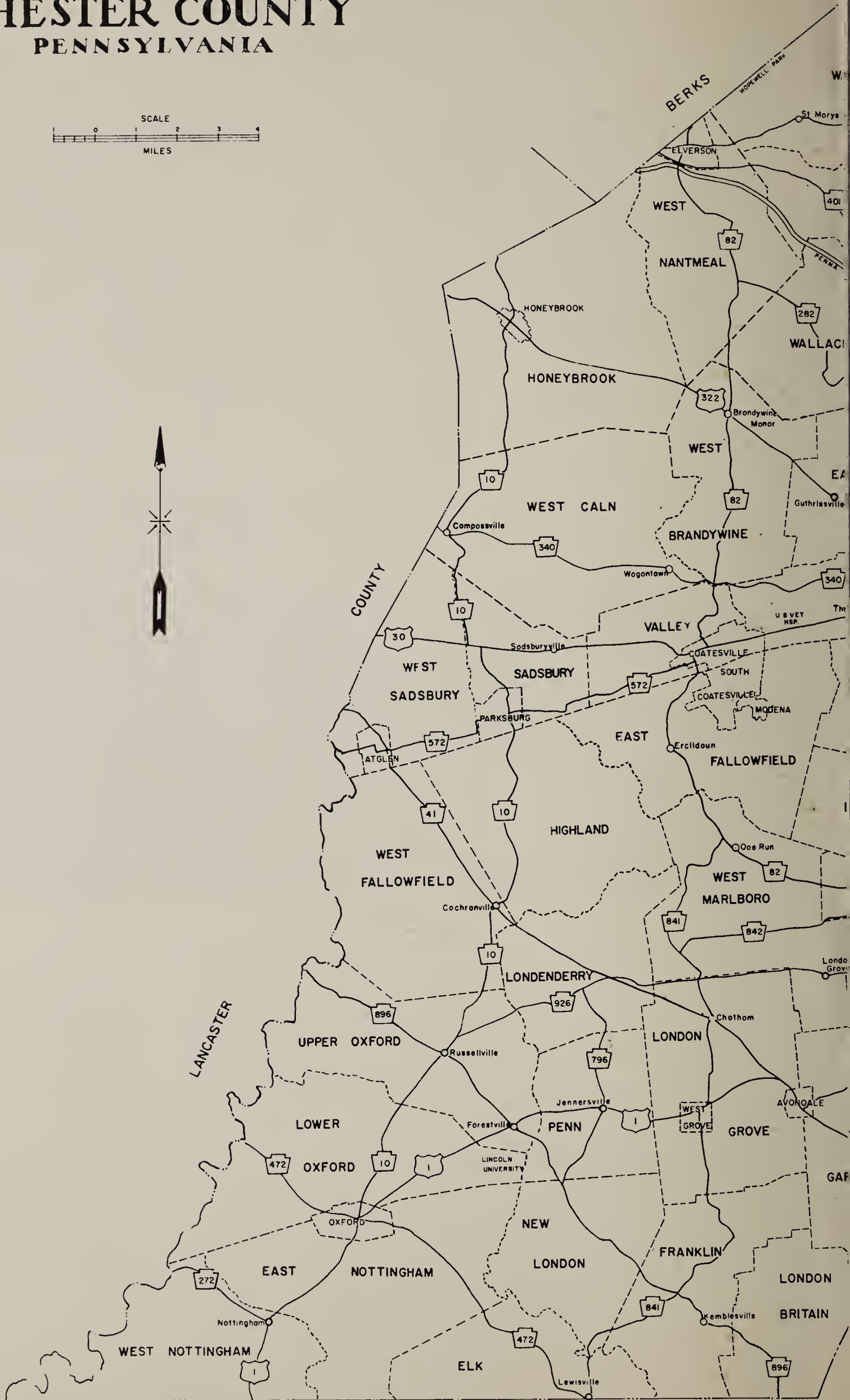
## F & M Scientific Corporation

In the field of primary research in electronic scientific instruments, the F & M Scientific Corporation was established mid 1961, located on Pennsylvania Route 41, two miles east of Avondale. It also develops linear programmed temperature gas chromatograph with flame ionization, Beta-Argon Ionization and Thermal Conductivity Detectors, Automatic Attenuators, G. C. accessory



# CHESTER COUNTY

## PENNSYLVANIA









items, Column Packings, Safety Ignition Units and Schoniger Oxygen Flasks.

## **Foote Mineral Company**

In the manufacturing of lithium chemicals, lithium compounds, zirconium, hafnium, ferro alloys for the welding industry and ground minerals, Foote Mineral Company expanded their Philadelphia operations with two plants in Chester County. The Exton Plant was established in 1941, on Pennsylvania Route 29 just North of U. S. 30 at Glen Loch. Their Research and Engineering Center at Exton was built in 1960 on Pennsylvania Route 100 just south of U. S. 30. Specialized research is done in a wide variety of scientific fields related to chemicals. Effective January 29, 1962, their Philadelphia Administrative facilities are now centered here.

## **Pennsylvania Flexible Metallic Tubing Company**

As a recognized leader in the manufacturing of interlocked flexible hose and tubing of Stainless Steel, the Pennsylvania Flexible Metallic Tubing Company (Penflex), founded in 1906 by Samuel H. Collom, transferred their operations to a new modern plant at Frazer on U. S. 30 in 1960. Under the direction of Samuel H. Collom, Jr., it meets the demands of military requirements for Saturn, Titan and Atlas missiles, as well as the needs of the Diesel industry in power, chemicals and petroleum, metal working, air conditioning, marine, transportation, coal, cement, food and steel.



F & M Scientific Corporation, Avondale, Pa.

## **Wyeth Laboratories Incorporated**

In the field of modern medicine, one of the oldest and largest makers of pharmaceuticals is Wyeth Laboratories Incorporated founded as a drug store in Philadelphia in 1860. Now a world-wide organization, they established their West Chester plant in 1942 as an antibiotic laboratory, developing delicate



chemical and biological techniques from the now widely known life-saving mold for the mass production of penicillin. They also produce sterile injectable drugs. They were the first company to produce penicillin commercially. They are now operating with a personnel of over 500. The Wyeth Great Valley Plant is located in Chester Valley at Lancaster Pike and Moorehall Road, just north of Malvern. An eight million dollar facility, it was completed with full operations late 1961. Staffed with 650 scientific, technical and administrative people, it is producing general pharmaceuticals.

## Industry Survey

The 1959 Industry Survey of Chester County by the Bureau of Statistics, Department of Internal Affairs, of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, discloses the following prevailing industries: lumber and wood products, paper and allied products, rubber and plastic products, stone, clay, glass products, primary metal industries, fabricated metal products, machinery both mechanical and electrical, transportation equipment, miscellaneous manufacturers, furniture and fixtures, petroleum, instruments and related products. The County has a total of 249 manufacturing industries, with capital expansion of \$18,734,300.00, employees 25,458, wages and salaries \$130,588,300.00. Value of production and related activities \$503,338,400.00. Value added by manufacturing is \$239,988,500.00.

## Industry and Commerce

With the above developments, the aspects of industry and commerce of Chester County are sound. Harmonious relations exist between employer and employee. We have aggressive expansion and intelligent studies by planning commissions, boards, including the Chester County Development Council, the Chester County Redevelopment Authority and the Chester County Water Resources Authority. The institution era of a few predominant industries is rapidly fading. Provincial thinking likewise has faded into the dim past, resulting in the forces of the county combining their efforts and recognizing the need for civic improvement, and taking steps to secure them. Chester County offers ample, attractive space and invites both new homes and diversified industries, which could substantially contribute to our future economic, educational, cultural, religious and social development, and, at the same time, share in the low county taxation atmosphere, and its conservative, yet progressive government.

## Markets

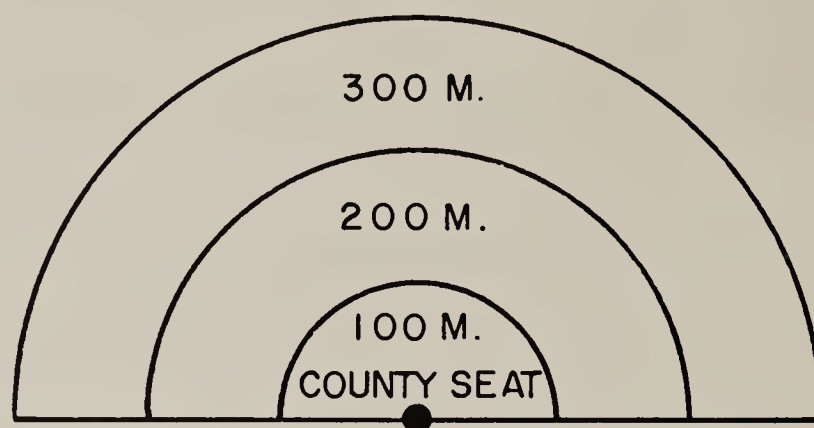
Chester County is in the midst of the great markets of the Delaware Valley, and the Mid-west. Within a five hundred mile radius are, 53 per cent of the U. S. population, 71 per cent of manufacturing employment, 62 per cent of



non-agricultural employment, 57 per cent of total income, and 54 per cent of retail sales. Our home markets alone are bigger than many whole nations. Within the Delaware Valley are markets with approximately twenty-five million employees.

## Distances

The distance in miles from the County Seat to some major cities is: Allentown 50, Atlantic City 86, Baltimore 83, Boston 359, Harrisburg 77, Lancaster 34, New York City 115, Philadelphia 25, Pittsburgh 273, Reading 40, Washington 126, Wilmington 17, and York 63.



## Seaport

Chester County has ready access within an hour's ride to Philadelphia, to the second largest seaport in the United States, with a waterborn tonnage of over 45 million tons.

## Vacation and Recreation

Within this area is offered easy driving range for vacation and recreation to the Chesapeake Bay and Ocean resorts, with winter and summer sports in the state parks, mountains, lakes and the famous Poconos. See also Chester County Park and Recreation.

## International Airport

Chester County also has access to the International Airport in southwest Philadelphia, one of the Country's leading air facilities for both Trans-Atlantic to Europe, Trans-Continental to California, connecting direct with Trans-Pacific air service to the Far East. It is one of the top three airports in air mileage in the Federal Airways, making Pennsylvania one of the top two states in total cargo and mail ton-miles in local service, as well as being one of the top states in the number of commercial airports.



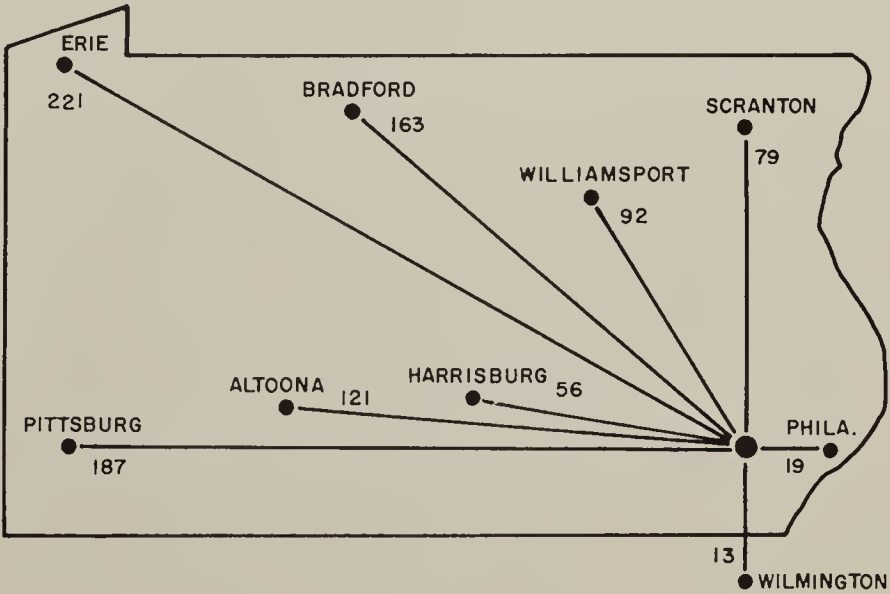


Chester County Area Airport, Coatesville

## Chester County Area Airport Authority

In keeping pace with air progress for the civic, industrial and residential development of our County, through modern and progressive planning, Chester County is among the first counties in Pennsylvania to establish an Airport Authority within the Metropolitan area of Philadelphia. This authority was created from the inspiration of several active and progressive-minded residents, and our County Commissioners, under the Municipality Authorities Act of 1945. It was incorporated in 1957, and established in 1959. Directed by a nine member board, with a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, with the advice of an appointed 28 member Advisory Committee. Funds were obtained by the Authority through voluntary contributions from federal, state and area funds to meet the nearly one half million dollars capital investment required. It is located in Valley Township about a mile east of the western terminus of the Coatesville-Downingtown cut-off on U. S. 30, west of Coatesville. It has a frontage of 1,400 feet on the south side of the Lincoln Highway, comprising

Air Miles to Cities in Pennsylvania





approximately 250 acres. Readily accessible from all parts of the County, by auto, bus and rail. It has preferred topographical and atmospheric conditions. It has a paved runway of 3,500 feet by 75 feet, and a paved taxiway, both lighted. Has paved entrance road and ample parking area. The hangar building has a 60 foot front, 80 foot depth, with a 28 foot back supporting section of suspended cantilever type. It is complete with necessary facilities to meet the requirements of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Bureau of Aeronautics, Labor and Industry, as well as the Federal Aviation Agency. These facilities are sufficient to permit use of most executive type twin engine aircraft and helicopters. It has an excellent potential as a feeder of both passenger and freight to and from the metropolitan airports, which now have over-taxed demands. There are 15 tiedown facilities available for planes. It has an application with the Federal Aviation Agency, Communications Division, for license for radio communication and frequency to operate it. The Agency is also examining a request for installation of ILS, for instrument approach for bad weather and night landings. Aviation gasoline facilities for 80 and 100 octane are available, including major repair for most light aircraft.

The Federal Aviation Administration has just recently awarded a permanent license, replacing the temporary license.

## Public Utilities

From the early individual and varied private power sources and communications, corporate modern public utilities sources provide and sustain the present and expanding industry in Chester County. For power, light and gas, the Philadelphia Electric Company is the prime reliable source, supported in the Atglen area by the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company from Lancaster, and in the Elverson area by the Metropolitan Power and Light Company from Reading. In communications are the Bell Telephone and Western Union Telegraph companies, and the Chester County Broadcasting Company, radio station WCOJ, of Coatesville and West Chester. The station operates day and night with a clear channel, having a radius of approximately 35 miles, with 1420 kilocycles-5000 watts. It is affiliated with the Quaker Network. The County is also amply provided for passenger and freight services by bus, rail and trucks.



# COUNTY SERVICES

## Board of Assessment and Revision of Taxes

The Board now has the responsibility, under the assessment law of May 21, 1943, to make proper assessments, re-assessments and revision of taxes on all taxable real estate within the County. This system replaces the locally elected individual sub-division and School District Assessor's functions. The Board is composed of the three County Commissioners. The departmental duties, directed by a Chief Assessor, and an Assistant Assessor, include a mapping division and a field assessor's division, and twenty-two trained members of the staff to enable the Board to properly re-assess the 61,692 parcels of real property within the County, and to assure that all properties be assessed on a fair and equal basis, with each paying its proper share of tax. The work of covering the entire County with aerial maps, preparing them for the various political sub-divisions, plotting each property thereon, setting up a card system identifying the ownership of every parcel; having appraisers visit and inspect each property, taking measurements, noting type of construction, improvements, age, depreciation, type of neighborhood and many other factors, has been completed. From all these factors the Board has determined the tax ratio to be applied as 40 per cent of the market value base. Previous ratios ranged from 29 per cent to 50 per cent. The combined aerial photography and professional appraisals cost the County \$539,500.00, which reduces itself to an approximate cost per parcel of \$9.00. The assessment period runs for a period of five months, April through August. The Board sits as a semi-judicial body to hear and decide appeals. Appeals from the Board of Assessment decisions may be taken to the County Courts. Assessments have been made by professional Field Assessors, of the firm of Cole-Layer and Trumble, under contract with the County until December 31, 1961. Beginning January 1, 1962, assessments will be the full responsibility of County field assessors, under direct supervision of the Board of Assessment and Revision of Taxes. The 1961 Assessment was \$348,856,808.00. The number of taxable items were 61,692. The number of tax exempt items was approximately 10 per cent.

## Personal Property Bureau

This phase of assessments on personal property functions in a Bureau, created in 1956 by the Board of Assessments and Revision of Taxes, which has the responsibility of assessing personal property comprising mainly taxable bonds, stocks, mortgages and notes, owned by County residents. Department duties are performed by a Director, an Assistant, and a clerical member of the staff. The Bureau supplies the forms on which holdings of personal property are to be listed. Based on these returns, tax bills are prepared and mailed to the taxpayer by this department, and payment therefor is made to the

County Treasurer. Upon failure of a taxpayer to file a return, an assessment can be made by the Bureau with a 50 per cent penalty added, and a date set for an appeal. Upon failure of a taxpayer to appear on the scheduled date and file a return, the amount of the assessment then fixed by the Bureau stands. Upon failure to pay Personal Property Taxes, suit may be entered and judgment secured. The tax rate is fixed by the legislature at four mills. Since the creation of the Bureau in 1956, with the total assessment then of 114.4 million dollars and a collection total of \$456,145.66, assessments for 1961 have risen to 235.8 millions, with a total billed \$951,542.97, a better than a 100 per cent collection increase, with better than 5,232 taxpayers. The 1962 total billing is better than \$1,058,271.42.

## Child Care

In keeping pace with changing conditions, the County in recent years organized a department, Child Care Service, for the betterment of its citizens. It was expanded beyond its original intent by the Commissioners in 1957, and now provides foster care. It believes, however, that a child needs its own home, and it is dedicated to the premise that the child should be kept in its own home if at all possible. Child Care Service works untiringly with parents, attempting to produce conditions within the home which will aid in the growth and development of the child. It is the aim of Child Care Service to help families stay together and help parents become better parents. Case work service is offered in all areas. The Service has been under the supervision of the Chester County Welfare Services. Services are included for neglected children under eighteen years of age, foster homes and institution placement, adoption and protection. Likewise, facilities are provided for emergency and temporary care. The service is operated by a Director and a staff of qualified trained Case Workers, Welfare Workers and a clerical staff. It has the benefit of an advisory committee, the members of which are representative of the County area, serving without pay. For the protection of the child from forces without, and to prevent forces within, Child Care Service, through counselling and moral assistance to the parent or parents, attempts to establish and promote a home atmosphere healthy in every respect to a growing child. Often when such counselling is successful, the child is retained at home. When children are being cared for in a foster home, case-work services are offered, not only to the child but the child's parents and foster parents so that the period of separation may be generally constructive. Every effort is made to find out and develop latent strength within the parents so that the home may be re-established and the child returned. Placement of dependent or neglected children in foster homes requires extreme caution, and in each instance where a child is placed in such a home, it is impressed on the foster parent that the child's stay may well be temporary, in keeping with the goal of restoring the child to its natural home if at all possible. There are numerous applicants for the roll of foster parent, and each must meet rigid qualifications. An appli-



cant must be independent of the recompense for housing the child, must be fully mature mentally and morally, and must wish to share the home life without displacing the actual parents in the mind or heart of the child. At times, there is no possibility of re-establishing the child's own home. In such situations, casework service is given to assist the parents in relinquishing the child. Likewise, casework service is given to assist the parents in relinquishing the children so that through adoption these children may obtain the security of a permanent home. Although adoption itself is under the jurisdiction of the Orphans' Court, Child Care Service renders valuable assistance in the preliminary steps required before a child may be adopted. In Chester County matters pertaining to adoption are impounded, in that a couple adopting a child may not know the child's parents nor may the parents know the identity of those adopting the child.

The problem of unwed mothers represents another phase of Child Care Service. In these instances assistance and counsel to the unwed mother, and to her parents if necessary, are given, so that the soundest decision may be made for the mother and child.

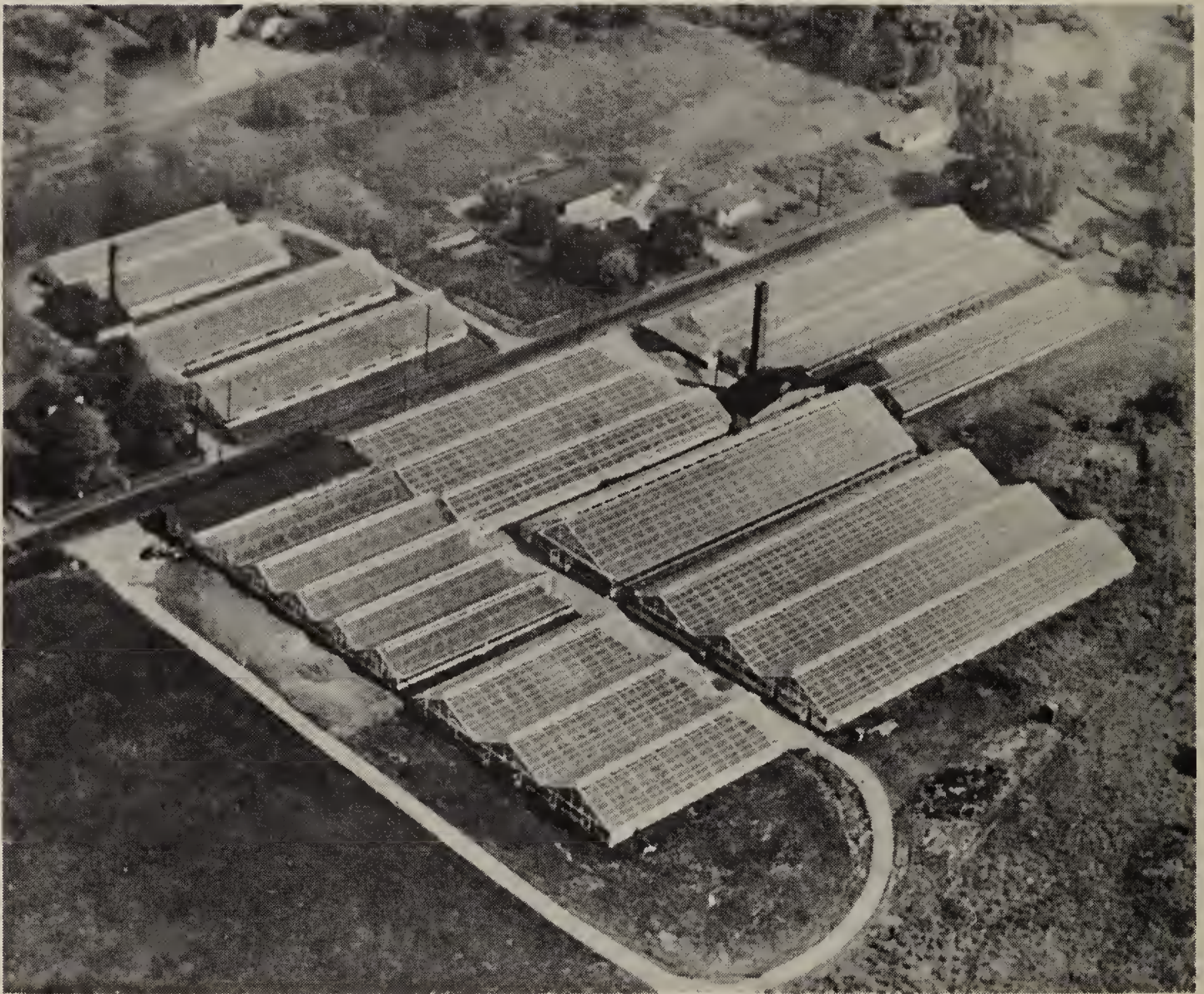
## Civil Defense

Civil Defense was established in 1950, and maintains an organization in the event of war emergencies which is a responsibility of the County Commissioners. The County provides annual appropriations for its operations and space in the Court House Annex. The duties are performed by a Director, two assistants and a secretary. Its activities are in cooperation with the Federal Bureau of Civil Defense, in the Defense Department and the State Council of Civil Defense. As a result of its organization development, all political sub-divisions of the County are organized with many men and women volunteers serving without compensation. Each division of activity has a chief, with his appointed staff, for Welfare, Security, Communications, Damage Control, Medical Education, Transportation, Rescue and Special Weapons. Chester County is cooperating with similar organizations in an eleven county area for the purpose of mutual aid in the event of an attack. The Commissioners have the responsibility for the safety of county records. To maintain continuity of county government during a disaster, if all Commissioners were unable to function, the emergency duties of the Commissioners would be performed by the Executive Assistant. Judges will function in accordance with instructions announced by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. The warning systems are identified officially as Conelrad 640 or 1240 on the radio, the Bell and Light (Y-R-W), and sirens with long and short blasts.

## Cost Clerk

The functions of this office are as follows: filing and indexing all tax bills received from the Clerk of Courts, forwarding to Probation Office a notifica-





Aerial View of Rose Growing Greenhouse



tion on non-support bills of the defendants with bill number and the amount of cost, issuing receipts for fines and costs and stand committed bills money, preparing insolvent discharge petitions and forms for signature of Commissioners, entering judgments in Prothonotary Office, processing bail bonds forfeitures, reporting annually to Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Revenue at Harrisburg, all insolvent motor violation discharges, reconciling accounts monthly, and working in close cooperation with the Chester County Farms Prison.

## **Engineer—County**

The County Engineer is a responsible, professional, registered engineer, appointed by the Commissioners. With the aid of his staff, he prepares, surveys, plans specifications and estimates for all engineering work undertaken by the County Commissioners. He prepares and revises periodically the county road maps and supervises all major engineering problems related to all county property, including roads and bridges. He performs as Executive Secretary to the Planning Commission. He represents the County at State Highway and Public Utility Commission hearings. He prepares record plans of land and buildings for the Planning Commission.

## **Library—County**

By action of the County Commissioners, a free public library for the County was created in 1935, making available books and literature, and a "Bookmobile" providing a wider source of literature primarily for students in the rural schools within the County. The library is sustained by an annual County appropriation, which for 1962 is \$32,000.00. It is operated and directed by a board of seven members without compensation, with a President, Secretary and Treasurer. Duties are performed by a librarian and an assistant. It is located in the Court House Annex, pending completion of the New County Building later in 1962 at Market and New Streets. Circulation by "Bookmobile" to the schools in 1961 was approximately 161,313 volumes, and the total circulation 166,496.

## **County Board of Elections**

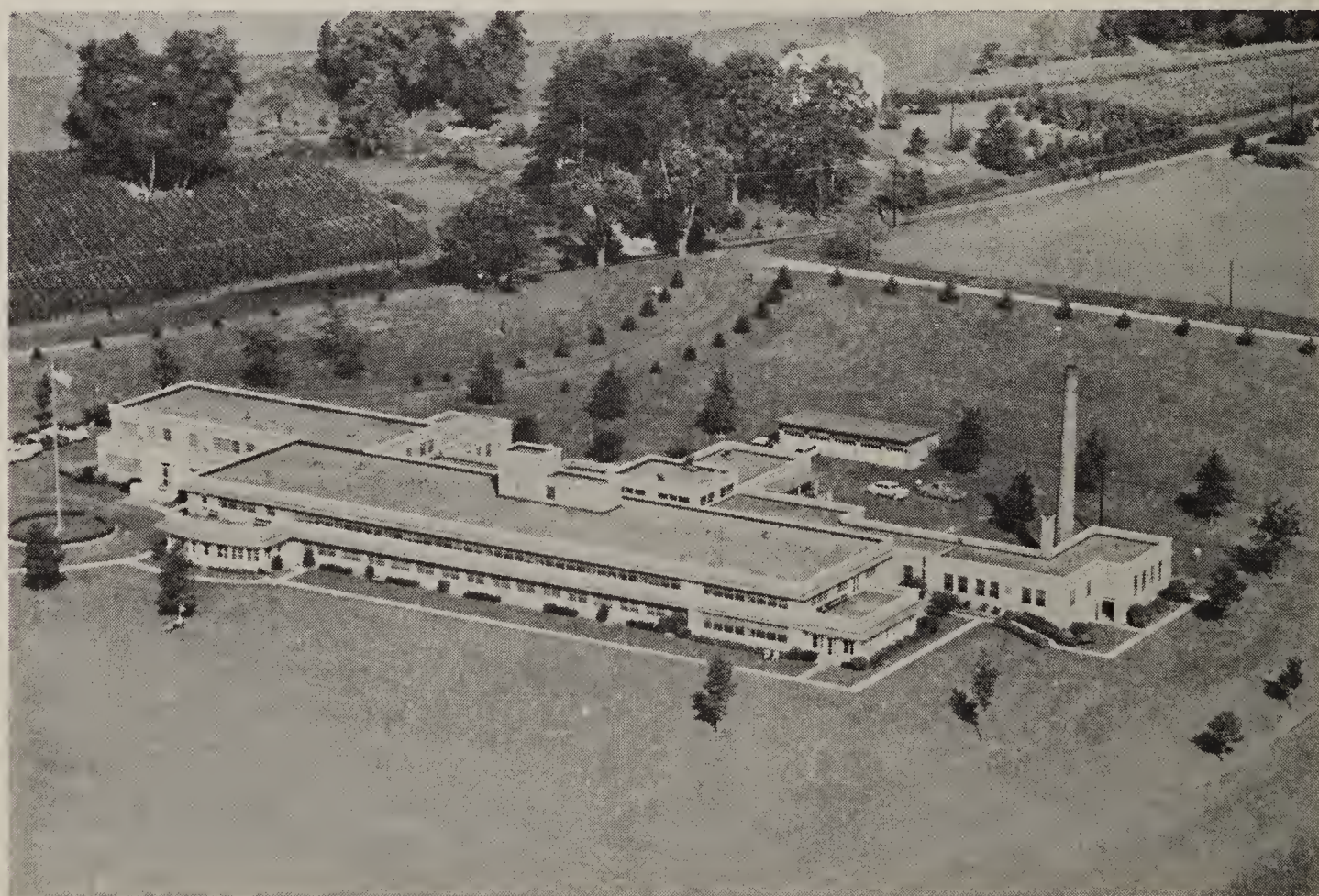
The Election Bureau, located in the Court House Annex, operates under the Election Code of June 3, 1937, which makes Counties responsible for the holding of all elections in the County, and the payment of all costs. The County Commissioners constitute the Election Board. It maintains all the equipment and supplies used in connection with elections. The Board provides petitions for candidates; arranges for drawings to determine places on the ballot; provides ballot boxes and booths for each voting district; causes the necessary number of ballots to be printed; arranges for the polling places,



and names the tabulating board which makes the official count of votes cast. The official count is begun at noon on the Friday following Election Day. The official count is certified by the Board of Elections, and the books are kept open for five days against possibility of appeal. When the County Commissioners themselves are candidates, the Court supervises the vote tabulation. Nomination petitions must be filed at least sixty-four days prior to the Primary. Nomination petitions shall be circulated prior to twenty days before the last day on which such petition may be filed, making the first date on which a petition may be circulated eighty-four days prior to the Primary. Polls open for elections at 7:00 A.M. and close at 8:00 P.M., E.S.T. All persons except watchers, persons in the course of voting, and persons lawfully giving assistance to voters, must remain at least ten feet distant from the polling place during the progress of the voting, and when the hour for closing the polls shall arrive, twice the number of voters as there are voting booths, who have already qualified and are inside the enclosed space, shall be permitted to vote; plus ten qualified electors who are in the polling place outside the enclosed space, waiting to vote, shall be permitted to vote, if found qualified. Provision is made for the use of Military, Veterans and Civilian Absentee Ballots. The secret ballot was adopted in Pennsylvania in 1891.

## Pocopson Home

As evidence of its early consciousness and concern for the care of its indigent residents, Chester County established the Chester County Poor Dis-



Pocopson Home, Pocopson



trict with a director, overseers and guardians of the poor in 1798. This was replaced by the Pocopson Home which was established in 1951, at Pocopson on Pennsylvania route 52, between Lenape to Anvil, and operated under the County Institution District Law of June 24, 1937, as a separate corporation, until January 1, 1962, at which time the County Institution District Law was abolished, and the entire responsibility for operations was transferred to the County operations under the County Commissioners. The County Commissioners are the Executive and Administrative officers. The home is directed by a Superintendent. Today more than two hundred men and women make their homes within its walls, admitted after careful investigations as to their finances or means of support. Pocopson Home is indeed a far cry from the Alms House or Poor House of early days. A humane quality, and a concern for those less fortunate in worldly or material means, and a desire to see the declining days of the residents made as comfortable as possible, consistent with a commendable husbanding of county funds, are the guiding motives in the administration of the care of the guests of the Home. The Home is of recent, brick, fire-proof construction. It is a two-story building with a basement. It is divided into areas for men and women, and further divided into areas for ambulatory residents and for those requiring special attention. The first floor, in addition to housing the administration area, contains a comfortable, well furnished sitting room where residents may meet and enjoy visitors; a chapel, in which services of major faiths are conducted; a kitchen, spotless and with tempting aromas prevalent as meals are prepared; dining rooms for the ambulatory residents, and the men and women's dormitories. It has a modern laundry, and ample sanitation facilities are provided. The first floor also houses a most interesting area—the department of occupational therapy. Here residents are encouraged to occupy themselves, using skills of former years, in the making of needlecraft, leathercraft, and other items requiring imagination and dexterity. Aprons, pot holders, belts, towels and many other skillfully contrived items are on display and may be sold. Proceeds revert to new inventory of material for this therapy. The second floor is devoted to those residents requiring special attention. Many, because of the infirmities of age, are confined to their beds. Others still needing the special care, are semi-ambulatory. A physician makes regular calls and is on call should illness strike. The basement contains the laundry in which all the clothing, as well as bed linens, towels and other washable items are laundered and pressed. Store rooms and maintenance facilities complete the basement. Every resident of Pocopson Home is given the opportunity to work within the limits of his or her physical abilities. No one, however, is ever forced to work; it is on a purely voluntary basis. Some of the residents work in the laundry, some in the kitchen, while others who prefer outdoor occupation busy themselves around the grounds. All of the milk consumed at Pocopson comes from the fine herd of dairy cattle maintained at the home. Many of the vegetables which appear at meals are grown at the home. Those residents who choose the opportunities to work are paid. The money, although modest, is theirs to spend as they

see fit. Admission may be accomplished by applying directly to the Superintendent. If the qualifications for admission are met, those applying are placed on the waiting list until a vacancy occurs.

## Contagious Diseases

In lieu of the County Institution providing special facilities for the care and treatment of contagious diseases, both corrective and preventive requiring isolation, a special unit is operated at and by the Chester County Hospital and maintained by the County by annual appropriations; in 1961, it was \$20,000.00. This special hospital wing is known as the Chester County Contagious Disease Unit. It is self contained and can offer care to eleven patients at a time by means of two private rooms and nine cubicles, plus certain ancillary services. In addition to a nurse station, an operating room is provided for minor surgery. Food is prepared in the hospital dietary department, brought to the contagious unit, and served on plates and dishes which never leave the unit. Because of modern preventive medicine and improvements in public sanitation, demands upon the facilities of the contagious disease unit have decreased over the years. However, a constant vigil is maintained so that persons suffering from diseases with a high risk of contagion may be properly isolated while their ills are treated. And in addition, for the considerable free services rendered by the general hospitals of the County to its residents, the County Commissioners make annual appropriations. The appropriation of \$66,000.00 for 1961, has been increased to \$72,500.00 for 1962, to assist those hospitals to defray such expenses. This includes the Chester County Mental Health Clinic, and Health and Welfare Council. The over-all 1962 hospital appropriations total \$92,500.00.

## Liquid Fuels Funds

These are derived from part of the permanent tax on fuel, collected by the State, paid into the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund of the State Treasurer, and distributed to the Counties under the Liquid Fuels Tax Act. The broad use and purposes are for construction, reconstruction, maintenance and repairs of roads, highways and bridges, for property damages occasioned by the relocation or construction of highways and bridges, and for payment of interest and sinking fund charges on bonds issued, or used for highways and bridge purposes. Expenditures from the fund by the Commissioners for new construction of roads and bridges made only upon approval of the plans by the department of highways. Allocations to sub-divisions are made only upon proper approval of the Department of Highways. Unencumbered balances are distributed two ways and only upon application by the political sub-divisions; 50 per cent on mileage ratio basis; and 50 per cent on population basis. Funds may not be co-mingled with County funds but deposited and maintained in a special fund designated as the County Liquid Fuels Tax Fund. For the purposes



of conserving the time of the members of Borough Councils, Boards of Supervisors and the County Commissioners discussing county aid needs, the Commissioners have adopted the requirement that a formal application for county aid be prepared and submitted in lieu of personal appearance. The application to be in the hands of the Commissioners before the end of March annually, at which time action will be taken in every case. Those applications received after March, will, of necessity, have to be satisfied with their portion of whatever remains on hand beyond that date.

## Maps

The official county map, first printed by the County in 1925, identifying sub-divisions, all traffic route numbered highways to scale, are distributed without cost. One of the most valued services provided by the County is that of the Map Department of the Board of Assessments, which lists every foot of Real Estate in each municipality, worked out on a scale map basis. The index maps, identify all roads, major streams and boundary lines. The property record maps are scaled 400 feet to the inch for open areas and 100 feet to the inch for developed areas. The aerial maps on topography are scaled to 400 feet, 1000 feet, and 2000 feet each to the inch. Any of these maps are available at a nominal cost to incorporated bodies at \$5.00 each and to individuals at \$10.00 each.

## Microfilm—Records

Photocopying of important records is a modern development and a valuable service of county government established within the past few years. The department is maintained on the lower floor of the Court House. Permanent records kept in this manner are impervious to the ravages of time, insuring the maintenance of pertinent documents while conserving space by elimina-



Immaculata College, near Frazer

tion of many old dockets. The Courts have jurisdiction over original papers and may direct from time to time that all or any part of them which have been on file for a period of ten years or more may be reproduced on Microfilm or other mechanical process which produces a clear, accurate and permanent copy. The Court order may direct that the original thereof, except papers which determine ownership or established title to real property, be destroyed and the reproduction substituted as a public record.

## Park and Recreation

The pastoral beauty of Chester County adds greatly to its charm and naturally attracts people to the County. Chester County, in keeping with modern planning, created a Park and Recreation Board in January, 1958. The Board is composed of ten civic minded men and women appointed by the County Commissioners. They serve without compensation, and function as an advisory body. It is directed by a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. They are assisted by an Executive Secretary. The office is in the Court House Annex. Its purposes are the coordinating and promoting park and recreational facilities and the making of appropriate recommendations. The 1961 annual report of the Board indicates some progress and considerable studies. The office maintains a display rack containing free pamphlets on recreation and information completed on existing recreation programs. Publicity is released inviting gifts of property with potentials for recreation and conservation. Addresses are made by the Chairman to many civic organizations in the County on the objectives of the Board. It develops specifications desirable to meet minimum requirements for both townships and county parks as a guide. It examines certain properties possibly suitable for development as part of a county park and recreation program. An initial acquisition of land was made in 1961, comprising approximately 468 acres in Nottingham Township. An inventory has been compiled on county assets in the park and recreation field. Chester County has approximately 6,000 acres of park and recreation facilities. In Warwick Township the French Creek Park federal acreage is 1,031.6, and the Hopewell area with a lake as the State Game Commission acreage 799.4. The State has Valley Forge (Historic) Park, in this County, Tredyffrin township 287.8 acres and in Schuylkill township 326.1 acres. Public school recreation acreage is generally about 1,200. The balance of park area, approximately 2,500 acres, is in private foundations, such as Longwood, on U.S. 1, at Anvil, east of Kennett Square; Swiss Pines Park in Charlestown township, on Pennsylvania route 15049, between Devault and Charlestown; Sharp's Woods Park in Easttown township near Berwyn on Pennsylvania routes 15111 and 15112, and the campus grounds of colleges or other municipal areas.

## Planning Commission

In keeping with modern processes, the Commissioners established a Planning



Commission in 1950, sustained by annual appropriations. The Commission is composed of nine civic minded men and women members serving without compensation in planning for the future of the County. Its activities are directed by a Board Chairman, Vice-Chairman, with the County Engineer performing as Executive Secretary, with headquarters in the Court House Annex. In creating the Planning Commission, it was the philosophy of the County Commissioners to offer the service and counsel of the Commission to municipalities within the County in a spirit of cooperative effort, but with no thought of dictation in the solving of local problems. Early in 1958, the Commissioners approved a comprehensive plan submitted to them by the Planning Commission. The plan provides for the operation of the County Planning Commission Staff during the current year and for the continuation of the program of sub-division examination and review; the establishment of a Planning Assistance Program to assist the local political units within the County prepare or revise any or all of the basic elements of their comprehensive community plan. Such local planning assistance is furnished in the form of Technical Planning Staff and services to those communities requesting assistance within the limits of the staff and financial ability of the County Planning Commission. Local planning assistance is furnished to aid in the preparation or revision of the following basic elements of comprehensive community plans:

(a) **A land use plan** which shows the location and extent of land in the community proposed to be used for residential, commercial, agricultural, industrial and public purposes.

(b) **A highway plan** which indicates the system of existing and proposed major, secondary and tertiary highways.

(c) **A community facilities plan** which shows the location and types of schools, parks, and other important public facilities.

(d) **A public improvements plan** which is a capital program with budget identifying those future public improvements necessary to carry out the community development objectives and recommending priorities for their extension.

(e) **Sub-division regulations** which provide for control of undeveloped land in the Community in terms of adequate size, appropriate street grades and widths, provision for street improvements and utilities, and establishment of proper official record.

Under this local Planning Assistance Program, the Chester County Planning Commission will: (1) Assist the respective community in making application to the Department of Commerce of the State of Pennsylvania for 50 per cent of the costs of the proposed planning program under Section 701 of the United States Housing Act of 1954. (2) If such application is approved by the Department of Commerce, the Chester County Planning Commission will further assist the local community by furnishing technical planning staff and services in an amount equal to twenty-five percent of the costs of the proposed planning program. In no instance shall the total amount of assistance outlined in this paragraph exceed \$1,000.00. The respective local community will furnish the balance of the cost of the proposed planning program. The Chester County

Planning Commission will continue work and study in the field of industrial development and in the study of the major expressway and highway needs within the County. The Planning Commission acts for the Commissioners, and takes an active part in "Penn-Jersey" transportation studies program. Chester County has voting membership on both the Policy Committee and Technical Planning Committee of the "Penn-Jersey" transportation study. It is financed by contributions from Chester, Bucks, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties, in Pennsylvania; Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Mercer Counties in New Jersey; the Federal Bureau of Public Roads, and the Highway Departments of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Overall study costs approximately \$3,400,000.00 to provide Eastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey with a definite, long range highway and transportation plan, scheduled for completion late in 1962.

## **Chester County Housing Committee**

The Chester County Housing Committee was created by the Commissioners in 1962, for the purpose of making investigations and studies of housing conditions throughout the county, and to recommend to the local authorities where improvements should be made. The board is comprised of fifteen members of county-wide representation.

## **Chester County Development Council**

In further keeping with modern processes, the Commissioners by resolution designated the Chester County Development Council, in mid 1960, to meet the need for a coordinated, county-wide, long range program to ensure stable and orderly economic progress, civic and general welfare. Incorporated as a non-profit dues paying membership organization in late 1960, in compliance with Act 1956, known as the "Industrial Development Assistance Law." Directing the organization is a Board of fourteen Directors, with a Chairman, four Vice-Chairmen, Treasurer, Secretary and an Executive Director. The work is directed to the planning and promotion of programs to stimulate the establishment of new or enlarged industrial and manufacturing enterprises within the County. The phase of work involving studies, surveys, investigators, compiling data and statistics to carry out the program has been developed, and have now entered into a promotional advertising program under contract with the National magazine publications of Fortune and News Week.

## **Chester County Redevelopment Authority**

Again meeting modern processes to promote the elimination of blighted areas and supply sanitary housing in areas for health, safety and welfare, the Commissioners, by resolution early in 1960, created the Chester County Redevelopment Authority which was incorporated the same year and established



in mid 1961, in compliance with Act of 1945, cited as the "Urban Redevelopment Law." It is directed by five appointed citizens, residents of Chester County, serving without compensation with a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. Tenure of initial appointments shall be for terms of one, two, three, four and five years respectively. Thereafter, the term of office shall be five years. Its purpose is redevelopment—undertakings and activities for the elimination of blighted areas. They may include planning, replanning, acquisition, rehabilitation, improvement, clearance, sale, lease, or other disposition of land, buildings or other improvements in blighted areas, or portions thereof, the relocation of businesses and families affected thereby in or outside of a redevelopment area, or any combination of such undertakings and activities; the installation, construction or reconstruction of streets, utilities, parks, playgrounds and other improvements necessary to carry out plans for a program of voluntary repair and rehabilitation of buildings or other improvements. The Authority may exercise the right of Eminent Domain. It will have authority to issue Bonds with all the qualities of negotiable instruments under the Law of Merchant and the Negotiable Instruments Law of Pennsylvania.

## **Chester County Water Resources Authority**

Here again, to meet changing conditions, for the purpose of protecting the health, needs, safety, welfare and to further conservation, the Commissioners, by resolution in 1961, created the Chester County Water Resources Authority, which was incorporated the same year. It is directed by nine appointed citizens, residents of Chester County, contributing their time with a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Tenure of initial appointments by the Commissioners shall be for terms of one, two, three, four and five years, respectively. Thereafter, the term of office shall be five years. Its purposes are to develop flood controls, prevent waste of water, property damages and soil erosion. Construction of dams for water storage to meet the present and future needs of Chester County citizens and industry. Their responsibilities include the acquisition of land by Eminent Domain, rights of way, easements, and the authority to create bond issues with all the qualities of negotiable instruments under the Law of Merchant and the Negotiable Instruments Law of Pennsylvania. Cooperating agencies are the departments of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service and Forest and Waters of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

## **Chester County Farms (Prison)**

Another of the many facets of county administration is the maintenance of a County Prison. The County Prison, which adjoined the Court House, was established in 1786. It was replaced by the prison at New and Market Streets in 1839, and again replaced early in 1959 by the new Chester County Farms. It marks another progressive milestone for the County officials. The prison is located in the rural atmosphere in Pocopson Township, adjoining the Pocopson

Home at Pocopson on Route 52 between Lenape and Longwood Gardens. The modern, fire-proof structure is a far different one than the preceding institutions, the last of which was built to house a maximum of forty-two persons, (the present one can hold one hundred seventy-two prisoners). Here again, foresight was exercised in the planning of the structure, utilities, kitchen, hospital ward, chapel and other basic services, whereby it may be expanded to accommodate some three hundred and fifty prisoners by the simple addition of one and a half wings of cells, or housing space. Census in the recent abandoned prison averaged one hundred thirteen, far in excess of that contemplated even when the original building was expanded. The new Chester County Farms averages one hundred forty monthly, with confinements and releases averaging eighty per month. The prison policy does not encourage idleness among the prisoners while serving their sentences. Numerous tasks, both within and without the prison proper, are available, and those who work are very modestly paid. The health of prisoners is cared for by both a physician and a dentist. Food is ample and well prepared, but delicacies are not included. The farms themselves will provide a large percentage of the food products consumed both by the prison and adjoining Pocopson Home. Personnel totals thirty-three, including the Warden and Matron on duty to maintain security twenty-four hours a day. For legal guidance, a Solicitor is provided. Motor Code violations account for the largest single cause of confinement, since the Courts are justifiably strict in the punishment of those who endanger life through improper use of automobiles. Modern and humane attitudes govern the administration of the prison. A Board of Prison Inspectors, composed of the three Judges of the Common Pleas Court, County Commissioners, District Attorney, Controller and Sheriff, make periodic inspection tours of the prison. The Board of Prison Inspectors (whose members serve without compensation) has as its prime responsibility the inspection of the facilities, all matters pertaining to its proper conduct and maintenance, and the treatment received by the inmates. This acts as another balance or check in the task of administering the affairs of the County fairly and efficiently.

## **Chester County Safety Council**

At the request of an already organized Safety Council, official recognition was granted by the Commissioners within the past few years as a non-profit, non-political organization. Its purpose is directed toward the safety of the public by education and is devoted to the control of domestic, industrial and highway accidents. The Council is directed by a Chairman and is composed of public spirited citizens contributing their time.

## **Registration Bureau**

Because voting is one of the most precious privileges and responsibilities of an American citizen, meticulous attention is paid to each detail of the



mechanics of voting and the registration of voters. A permanent Registration Commission has been established under the Permanent Registration Act of April 29, 1937 (except Philadelphia), which makes the counties responsible for registration. Under it the County Commissioners are required to act as the Registration Commission. Once registered, a voter need not re-register unless, because he has not voted within a two year period, his registration has been cancelled. Even then, if he files his re-instatement application within ten days after having received notice that his registration will be cancelled, his registration will remain active. Registration may be accomplished at either the office of the Registration Commission in the Court House Annex or at the proper location in the various municipalities throughout the County which the Traveling Registrars visit as they make their rounds offering their services to all eligible citizens. The sites chosen by the Traveling Registrars are always well publicized in advance of the Registrar's visit. Registration of voters closes fifty days prior to all Primary Elections, and reopens five days after Primary Elections; it closes fifty days prior to all Municipal and General Elections, and reopens thirty days following such elections. A qualified voter, moving from one precinct to another within Chester County, need not re-register. Instead, by applying for and completing and returning a change of address form, the Registration records are adjusted without the voters having to appear in person. A qualified voter may change party affiliations only between the November elections which are held on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November, and Primary elections which are held on the third Tuesday of May each year except in the year of the nomination of a President of the United States in which year the General Primary shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of April. To be eligible for registration, a person must have been a citizen of the United States for at least one month. He or she shall have resided in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for at least one year, (except) that a person who had previously been a qualified voter or native born citizen of the State and removed from that State, must have returned six months prior to the election. Further, a person must have resided in the election district where he or she shall offer to vote at least two calendar months. A minor who will be twenty-one years of age not later than the day after any election may register and vote at that election. It is necessary, however, to register prior to the final date of registration. Persons in actual military service may register by mail. Since no one can vote unless registered, the work of this department is very extensive in keeping the registry rolls up to date. Modern files and equipment are installed as the department expansion demands.

## **Retirement Board—Social Security**

Chester County established a retirement system early 1943 under the Fourth Class County Retirement Law of July 8, 1941. The administrators of the Board are the County Commissioners, Treasurer, and the Controller. All County Employees on a yearly or monthly salary basis are required by state law to

join the system. Elected officials may join. They contribute sums to the retirement fund calculated on an actuarial basis according to their age and the amount of their salary. The County matches dollar for dollar the amount contributed by employees. The pension to which an employee is entitled is determined by the length of service and by the average salary for five years of the highest salary return. An employee may go on voluntary retirement on reaching the age of 60. Desired retirement age is 65, while maximum retirement age is 70. One dismissed after ten years of service without reaching the age of 60 is entitled to receive a pension. Social Security status has been made available for all employees, in addition to retirement fund benefits. Social Security status was made available for all employees in March 1957, retroactive to January 1956. Limitation of annuities is placed at eighty percent of average salary for last five years before retirement.

## **Salary Board**

Chester County operates under a Salary Board as provided under the Act of 1955. The Board is composed of the County Commissioners and the Controller, and the elected row officers when salaries in their departments are to be considered. All county employee salaries and increments are determined by this Board except those of elected officials, whose salaries are determined by the legislature. To eliminate the haphazard system of the past for considering salaries, the Commissioners in 1960 caused the first complete study and evaluation of the duties and salaries for all county personnel under the jurisdiction of the Board to be completed. From the fundamental studies were developed job specifications for each classification; salary averages were gained for those prevailing for like classifications in other fourth class counties and in local area industry, and salary ranges were established for each classification as a guide or blue print. With this information the Board can approach the salary problem more scientifically and thereby render more equitable and just decisions.

## **Group Insurance**

It is provided by the County at no cost to the employees until no longer employed. New employees must be on duty three months before insurance becomes effective.

## **Sealer of Weights and Measures**

The first Regulator of Weights and Measures was appointed by the Governor in 1741. Protection of the public, through inspection and testing of all scales and measuring devices in business establishments, was provided by Acts of 1911 and 1921. This is another service given by the County. Periodic inspections and test visits are made by the Sealer, and his deputy inspectors. Scales



found to be inaccurate are removed from service until corrected and retested. When the Sealer of Weights and Measures and his deputies discover a device used deliberately to cheat the public in weight or measure, the device is confiscated and the user prosecuted. All gasoline pumps are checked at specified intervals to assure that correct measure is being given.

## Surplus Foods

Setting up the surplus food program by the County Commissioners in 1954, making distribution of food to the needy in cooperation with the United States Surplus Food Commodities through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Property and Supplies, is another important function which meets the needs of a segment of our residents. Basically, those residents of Chester County receiving food items are those on Social Security, those getting aid from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Assistance, those whose needs are determined by light or limited income, unemployed or part-time employees, and regularly employed persons with large families with insufficient income. The first distribution of food was made in December, 1954. Commodities which have been available and distributed were butter, cheese, dried milk, rice, beans, wheat flour, corn meal flour, shortening, lard, luncheon meat, pork and gravy and powdered eggs. The warehouse for the storing of surplus food has been established by the County in Coatesville. The County makes distribution therefrom to the residents in the area. Distribution is made for West Chester at the Armory and at specific food stores throughout the County in Parkersburg, Kennett Square, Oxford, Malvern, Wayne, Phoenixville, Spring City, North Coventry, and Downingtown. Total commodities distributed to the residents from the origin of the program to December 31, 1961, was 2,040,045 pounds (to 51,168 families, or 225,490 portions).

## Veterans Affairs

Another important service rendered by the County is the office of Veterans Affairs. This Bureau is a responsibility of the Commissioners. It was created by the County as provided under the Act of 1955, and operates under rulings of the Veterans' Administration. Duties are performed by a Director, an Assistant, and a Secretary. Offices are at 31 West Market Street next to the Court House. Its purposes are to render service, furnish guidance, render assistance, and act as a clearing house for information in all matters affecting veterans, their dependents, their widows and children, and the mothers of veterans, in matters of rehabilitation, insurance, pensions and bonus money after veterans have been discharged from the service. It aids in obtaining hospitalization for veterans and in obtaining burial allowances. It distributes bronze grave markers and granite headstones provided by the County upon proper authorization. It marks graves in the County of veterans of all wars in which the United States has engaged. Annual appropriations are provided by the County to local



veterans' organizations for patriotic exercises in honoring deceased veterans and for decorating their graves.

## County Building—(New)

The new County Building under construction at the site of the old prison, New and Market Streets, West Chester, will cost approximately \$600,000.00 fully equipped and furnished. This is another reflection of progress by the County Commissioners toward the alleviation of over-crowded office conditions in the Court House and the Court House Annex. Occupancy is expected by early fall, 1962. In this building will be found the Chester County Library, Child Care Service and the County Superintendent of Schools. (See artist conception of the building elsewhere).

## New Court Facilities

Again reflecting progress, to meet the needs of an expanding Court and additional county office space, planning, surveys and studies are now being developed for the alteration and expansion. Completion of this program will be initiated in the very near future.



Aerial View West Chester State College, West Chester



# THE COURTS

## Courts

Beginning with the original County, Court was established at Upland in 1676. The first Court was held at Upland in the original Court House in 1680. Following the removal of the County Seat to Turk's Head (now West Chester) in 1786, the first Court held here was in 1786, and in the present Court House in 1874. The number of Common Pleas Judges presiding on the bench either appointed or elected since 1786, including our present judges, has been twenty-four, with one President Judge of the separate Orphans' Court. The County Courts are the corner-stone of our Government by Law.

## Members of the Bar

The first member dates back to 1683.

## Judicial District

Chester County constitutes the 15th district.

## The Court of Common Pleas

This Court is concerned with civil cases, that is, disputes between parties in reference to personal property rights. The Court has original and unlimited jurisdiction over all kinds of civil actions. All cases tried before this Court involve either questions of law, or questions of fact. Questions of law are decided by the judges. This Court has jurisdiction over cases appealed from judgments obtained before a Justice of the Peace; from judgments rendered by the Workmen's Compensation Board; the Board for the Assessment and Revision of Taxes; Juries of View, and other administrative and semi-judicial bodies. In addition, it has jurisdiction in Habeas Corpus proceedings. There are three presiding judges in the Common Pleas Court of Chester County. The elected terms are for ten years. The annual salary is paid by the State.

## Equity Court

The first Equity Court under that name for Chester County was founded in 1686 by the Justices of the Common Pleas Court. In Pennsylvania there are no separate Courts of Equity, and the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas have jurisdiction over these cases. Equity cases are heard without a jury, the Judge deciding both the law and the facts. In conducting an Equity case, the Judge is termed Chancellor. In those cases where there is not a plain legal



Orphans' Court View of Mural

remedy, they are tried by a Court of Equity. Suits for injunctions or restraining violations of building restrictions are a common illustration of equity cases.

## Criminal Courts

Prior to the Constitution of 1790, the Court of Oyer and Terminer for higher crimes and appeals was held by the Justices of the Provincial or Supreme Court, who made a circuit of the Counties at stated times. In Chester County there are two Criminal Courts: The Court of Oyer and Terminer and General Jail Delivery, and the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace. The Court of Oyer and Terminer is for the trial of persons accused of serious crimes, such as murder, rape, burglary, and arson. The Court of Quarter Sessions is for the trial of persons accused of less serious crimes, such as embezzlement, assault and battery, obtaining money under false pretenses and for the violation of many statutes such as the Liquor Control Act. In practice, these courts are held together, presided over by the same judges with the cases tried by the same jurors. The Judges of the Court of Common Pleas also preside over the Criminal Courts of Chester County. At present, there are five terms of Criminal Court, held annually. The terms start in January, March, May, September and November. Jury trials are usually held for nine weeks each year. The names of these courts are derived from old English Law.

## Juvenile Court

This court is a branch of the Criminal Courts, with jurisdiction over children up to eighteen years of age. This jurisdiction is exercised not only over children accused of violating some law but also over dependent and neglected





Orphans' Court Scene

children. Sessions of the Juvenile Court are informal in nature and are referred to as "hearings," rather than "trials." In the event of hearings concerning dependent or neglected children, the Juvenile Probation Officer, or the Child Care Center frequently assists the Juvenile Court.

## Separate Orphans' Court

The first Orphans' Court under that name, was held at Chester, in 1687. The chief functions of this court, usually operating without a jury, are the Administration and Settlement of Decedents Estates, Trust Estates and Minor's Estates. Until 1953, the Orphans' Court functions were presided over by the Common Pleas Judges. The separate Orphans' Court was established, in 1953. The Court functions with a President Judge. It may appoint guardians for the estates of Minors and Mental Incompetents (functions from which the name of the Court is derived), handle adoption cases, and hold jurisdiction over appeals from inheritance tax appraisements. Also within the jurisdiction of this court, is the operation of the Marriage License Bureau. In matters of birth certificates, any person born in Pennsylvania prior to January 1, 1906, may, under the Act of July 16, 1941, petition the Orphans' Court of his native county to have his birth record filed, corrected or recorded. The petition may be referred to a Master who holds a hearing and recommends to the Court either approval or disapproval of the petition. The elective term of President Judge is ten years. The annual salary is paid by the Commonwealth.

## Jury Commissioners

By law, the qualified electors in the County may vote for one Jury Com-

missioner. The effect of this is to elect one Jury Commissioner of the majority party and the other of the minority party. Trial by jury is provided by the Constitution of the United States, and originates in Old English Law, dating from the "Magna Charta" at Runnymede in the 13th Century, protecting the rights of man. The two Jury Commissioners with the Judges of the Common Pleas Court constitute the Jury Board which, under the Act of 1939, is now responsible for the selection of names put into the Jury Wheel. The term of office is four years with an annual salary of \$950.00 paid by the County.

## Jury Wheel Custody

This is a responsibility of the Jury Commissioners, and the keys are in the custody of the Sheriff.

## Selecting Jurors

The first jury impaneled on the records of Upland Court was in 1678, and this was the first jury impaneled within the limits of Pennsylvania. In selecting names for prospective jurors, every conceivable human effort is extended, and every possible precaution exercised to make certain that intelligent residents of good moral character and standing in the community are chosen for the all-important role of juror. Also, to eliminate any possible political favoritism, a Judge of the Court and the two Jury Commissioners, who are not members of the same political party, prepare rosters of Chester County residents from which potential jurors may be chosen. These names are checked carefully, and the neighbors of those nominated may be interviewed as to character and competency of those under consideration. Those names screened and known to represent citizens of good character are then turned over to the Jury Clerk who causes them to be prepared on special forms which are then folded with the name inside to assure complete secrecy. The Jury Wheel is filled by the Judge and Jury Commissioners annually, usually November. It is from this wheel that names of those chosen to serve as jurors are drawn by chance in open court. Attorneys and physicians in practice are never listed for jury service. No person under indictment, whether for felonies or misdemeanors, is ever selected. Persons convicted of felonies are banned from serving on a jury. The number of names drawn from the Jury Wheel depends on the needs of the Courts for jurors, which in turn is based on the estimated number of cases to be tried.

## Grand Jurors

The first Grand Jury of Record ever to sit in Pennsylvania was in this County, in 1682. They are selected as the first twenty-four names drawn for each term of Criminal Court. Jurors are paid \$9.00 per day and seven cents per mile for the first day only, going to and returning from the county seat. Jury



lists are prepared in September for the entire following year. A citizen wishing to volunteer for jury service should communicate with a member of the Jury Board.

## **Board of Viewers**

The Board of Viewers is appointed by the Court composed of three persons, an Attorney, Layman and an Engineer. They are named for three year terms, in compliance with provisions of the Act 1955. The Court assigns a Jury of View, or Board of Review, when a petition is presented for the reviewing, laying out, opening, grading, altering, widening, vacating or construction of roads, sewers or bridges, or for the assessment of damages and benefits occasioned by such improvements; or for any appropriation of land by municipalities or other corporations having power of Eminent Domain. The jury gives notices to parties concerned, conducts hearings, takes testimony and evidence, and then files a report with the Court of Quarter Sessions. These members of the Board of Viewers are compensated; the Chairman receiving \$50.00 and each of the others \$35.00 for each case in performance of their duties. They also receive traveling expenses of ten cents per mile.

## **Juvenile Home**

Temporary detention facilities are provided for juvenile delinquents in a large home on West Gay Street, in West Chester, with a Matron and Staff under the jurisdiction of the County Commissioners. Those held there are received as alleged delinquents on order of the Juvenile Probation Officer.

## **Law Library**

The Chester County Law Library is maintained in the Court House for the use of the Court, county officials and members of the County Bar Association. The Board of Commissioners provide annual appropriations in amounts as directed by the President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, as provided by the Act of 1955.

## **Probation—Adult**

The Desertion and Probation Officer is an agent of the Court, appointed by the judges and is responsible to them. His office is located in the Court House Annex. His duties fall into two categories: (1) probation and parole activities; (2) domestic relations work. Although the responsibilities of a probation officer at the county level do not normally include supervision of the more hardened criminals usually found at State or National level, they are arduous in nature and deal with human as well as legal problems. A rather imposing amount of work done by the Probation Officer has to do with marital difficulties and with

the problem of non-support. During recent years, some 1,007 complaints were received from wives, alleging that their husbands were failing to support them. In such instances, a hearing before the proper court may be arranged and, if the court finds for the wife, a support order is issued, compelling the husband to contribute to the wife's support in a specified amount. Here in Chester County, however, only some ten percent of the more than 1,000 complaints ever reach the court. The Probation Officer arranges for the husband and wife to meet with him in the privacy of his office, discusses the problem with them as a friend, and seeks reconciliation. In some instances reconciliations are effected, the complaints withdrawn, and the couple attempts to resume their married lives. In other cases, the breach between the couple had become too wide for reconciliation but, through the medium of the Probation Officer, an amount of support mutually acceptable to both parties is arrived at and a hearing with its necessary costs is avoided. In all instances where support is involved, whether it be by mutual consent, or by court order, the collection and distribution of support orders are handled by this office and exceed a half-million dollars a year. All of the Probation Officer's energies, however, are not directed solely toward marital problems. He sees also to situations where indigent parents are seeking support from their children, and where mothers seek support from the fathers of children born out of wedlock. Adult parole in Chester County fortunately does not usually deal with the more vicious of crimes, since convictions of most felonies result in confinement in a State Penitentiary. It is the responsibility of the Parole Officer, though, to check with the individual's activities during the probation period. Although the Juvenile Probation Officer maintains separate offices, there is close co-operation between the two. Ofttimes, at the request of the Juvenile Probation Officer, assistance will be given by the Adult Probation Officer, particularly when the juvenile concerned falls in the "nearly fully grown" category. In addition, the Chief Probation Officer has two assistants and an office staff.

## Probation—Juvenile

The Juvenile Probation Officer is an officer of the Juvenile Court, appointed by the judges and responsible to them. This court is a branch of the Criminal Courts and has jurisdiction over children up to eighteen years of age. The office is located in the Court House Annex. Because children should be guarded from association and contact with crime and criminals and, in certain instances, be subject to wise care, guidance and control; the Juvenile Probation Officer is an important and valued ally of the Court. High on its list of duties is the investigation of cases of delinquent, neglected, or dependent children. Allegations, each of which must be looked into, are as many and varied as are the countless quirks of human nature and provide a never-ending parade of problems to the Juvenile Probation Officer, the two assistants and the clerical staff. Complaints, or information indicating the need for action on the part of the Juvenile Probation Officer, may originate at many sources. Sometimes



it may be a school teacher who spots the trouble, any of the police agencies in the county may provide the initial information or, in fact, any interested citizen may bring a situation to the attention of the Juvenile Probation Officer. Some of the more than a thousand cases handled a year by this office respond to the therapy of the Probation Officer's counsel and, having been corrected, need not be brought in before the Court. This is the ideal or happy situation but, unfortunately, all the problems confronting the Office are not that easily solved. If it becomes evident that a juvenile should be brought before the Court, necessary arrangements are made for an informal hearing. The word "Trial" is not used in connection with Juvenile Court Cases, and no jury is utilized; the judges conduct the hearing and determine all cases affecting children. The Court may make one of several decisions regarding the child, most of which involve the Juvenile Probation Officer. A child may be allowed to remain at home, or be placed in a suitable family home, subject, in either case, to the supervision and guardianship of the Juvenile Probation Officers. Or, a child also may be committed to a suitable institution or industrial or training school. In all instances, the Juvenile Probation Officer has the responsibility for making periodic reviews and submitting appropriate recommendations to the Court.

## **Court Reporter**

It is a vital office for the Court, appointed thereby and responsible thereto, for taking stenographic reports of trials and hearings. It requires a high degree of skill in stenographic work and in transcribing verbatim reports. The reporter prepares verbatim stenographic reports of witness testimony, instructions of the Court to Jury, court trials and reports of proceedings, hearings in non-support, extradition proceedings, etc. The reporter takes testimony at Coroner's inquests, zoning hearings, depositions and discovery under Court rules and writes orders of appointment.

## **Chester County Law Reporter**

The first legal notice service in Chester County was established as the "Chester County Reporter," in 1881, succeeded by the "Legal Intelligencer," about 1892 (both as private ventures). It was further replaced by the "Chester County Law Reporter" (owned and published by the Chester County Bar Association), in 1947, complying with the provisions of the Act 1909. It is officially designated by the Courts of Chester County, Pennsylvania, and the Federal District Courts for the publication of legal notices. Generally, the types of legal notices embrace Corporations, Divorce, Estates, Fictitious Names, Miscellaneous, Zoning and Sheriff Sales.

# ELECTED COUNTY OFFICIALS

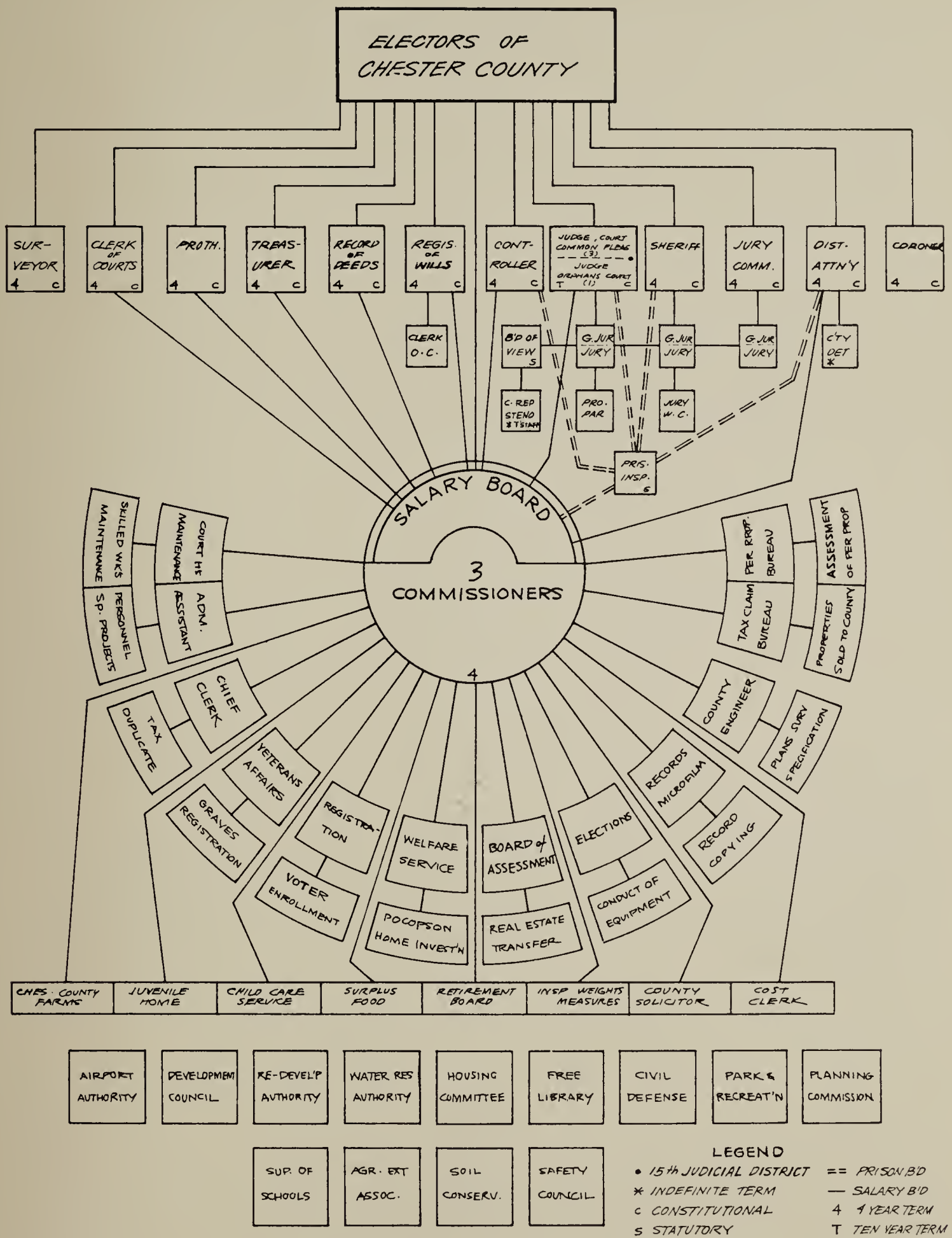
They are provided for by Article 14.1 of the Pennsylvania Constitution. Salaries are established by the Legislature and paid by the County.

## County Commissioners

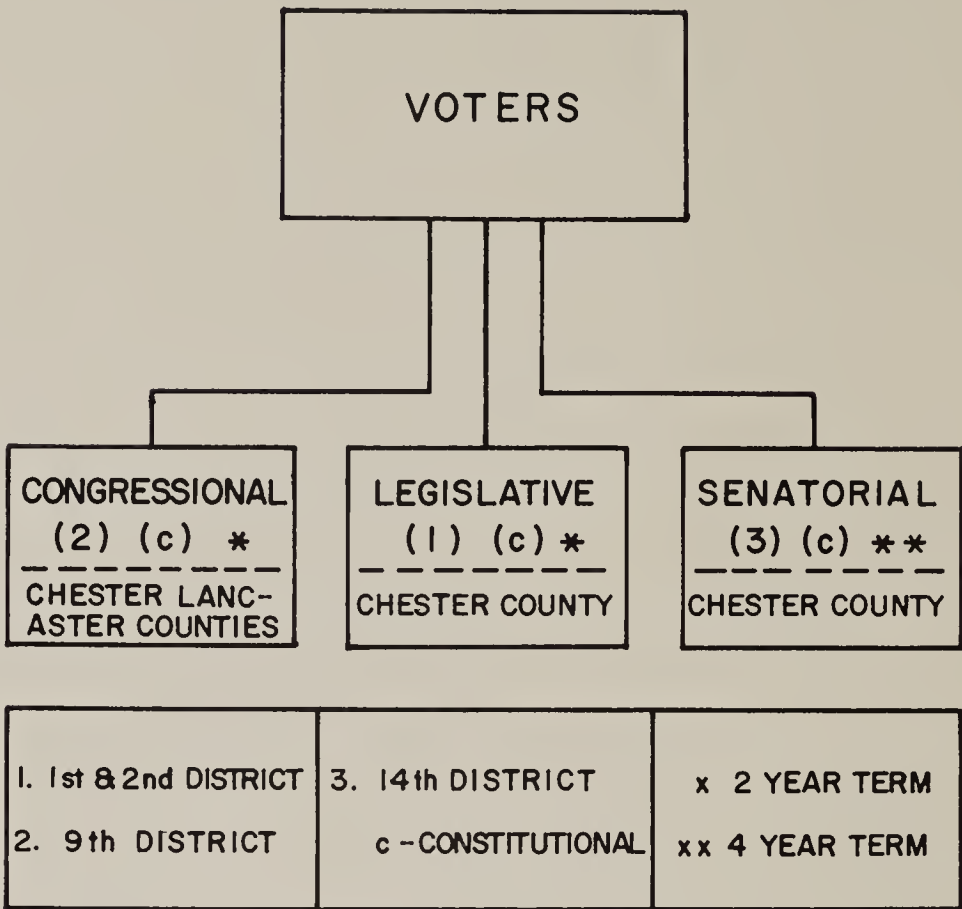
This office was first created prior to 1720, and further provided for by the above Article, as early as 1786. County control then was set up to act as an agency or local administration, that people would have a direct voice in the management of matters of local concern. Today the County Commissioners perform under laws affecting them passed by the General Assembly and as provided for by the Constitution, Article 14.7, beginning with elections in 1875, and every third year thereafter. Following the Amendment of November 2, 1909, they were elected in 1911, and every fourth year thereafter. The term of office is four years with an annual salary of \$10,000.00. The law requires three members be elected to the Board: two representing the majority party and one the minority party. The General Assembly, subject to restrictions and provisions of the State Constitution, has the authority to determine what powers and duties shall be lodged in the hands of County Officials, how these powers shall be exercised and what offices shall be created to administer the laws. The Commissioners are the responsible managers and administrators of official county affairs. They are the sole contractors for the purchasing of all materials, supplies, equipment and construction, for the conduct of any service of county government. The Commissioners are vested with corporate powers and have the Official Seal. They are the ones upon whom legal process against the County is served. They have jurisdiction over county bridges, elections, registration, maintenance and supervision of the Court House, and the Sealer of Weights and Measures. They constitute the County Board of Elections, Registration Commission, and have the full responsibility for the administration of the County Welfare Services. They adopt budgets and tax rates for the County. They are the members of the Board of Assessment and Revision of Taxes and of such Commissions and Boards as may be deemed necessary. They have jurisdiction over all employees in offices and departments under the Commissioners, and appointments thereto. The Commissioners are



# Elected County Officials



# Chester County & District Elected Legislators



Legislative District No. 1, 24 subdivisions:

Atglen, Avondale, Coatesville, South Coatesville, Elk, East Fallowfield, West Fallowfield, Franklin, Highland, London Britain, Londonderry, London Grove, West Marlborough, Modena, New Garden, New London, East Nottingham, West Nottingham, Oxford, Lower Oxford, Upper Oxford, Parkesburg, Penn and West Grove.

Legislative District No. 2, 49 subdivisions:

Birmingham, East Bradford, West Bradford, East Brandywine, West Brandywine, Caln, East Caln, West Caln, Charlestown, North Coventry, East Coventry, South Coventry, Downingtown, Easttown, Elverson, East Goshen, West Goshen, Honeybrook Borough, Honeybrook, Kennett Square, Kennett, Malvern, East Marlborough, East Nantmeal, West Nantmeal, Newlin, Pennsbury, Phoenixville, East Pikeland, West Pikeland, Pocopson, Sadsbury, West Sadsbury, Schuylkill, Spring City, Thornbury, Tredyffrin, Uwchlan, Upper Uwchlan, Valley, East Vincent, West Vincent, Wallace, Warwick, Westtown, East Whiteland, West Whiteland, Willistown, West Chester.



assisted in their various duties by the officers appointed by them, among whom are the Chief Clerk and Administrative Assistant, who exercise coordinative and administrative functions with respect to departments responsible to the Commissioners. They make decisions on operational problems referred to them by the department heads in the absence of the Commissioners if action cannot be postponed. They meet with persons making inquiries, suggestions or complaints, or having other county business, and make recommendations concerning these matters. The Chief Clerk arranges for advertising of bids. Both the Chief Clerk and Administrative Assistant attend meetings of the Commissioners in order to advise them on problems requiring advice and keep informed of County business. The Commissioners, as of January 1, 1962, have the responsibility of the Institution District and are provided with a Solicitor and an Assistant Solicitor, as legal advisors in all matters where they are involved legally, who interprets for them all laws affecting counties of the fourth class, as passed by the General Assembly. They also consult with the Commissioners in affairs involving legal aspects or problems. Assisting the Commissioners are the County Engineer and his staff. The Commissioners are members of the Board of Prison Inspectors, with the Chairman presently being a member of the County Commissioners.

## Clerk of Courts

In some respects similar to the Prothonotary, the Clerk of Courts in fact is a Clerk or Secretary to the Quarter Sessions where misdemeanors are brought to trial, and the Oyer and Terminer which deals with commission of felonies. At present there are five terms of court each year, making for a full schedule for the Clerk of Courts. He is elected for a four year term with an annual salary of \$9,300.00. It is the Clerk of Courts or his duly appointed three deputies who are empowered to sign and affix the Seal of the Court to all its writs and processes, to administer oaths and affirmations in the conduct of the office business, and to assume custody of the Seal and all records of the courts. The records maintained by the Clerk of Courts are of great magnitude including, as they do, records of all decisions of the courts, convictions, acquittals, dismissals, and appeals. As secretary to the Court, the Clerk of Courts maintains a listing or docket of all persons to be brought before the courts for trial. He also receives the Bonds of Constables and Tax Collectors, one for each township within the County. In addition to his arduous duties pertaining to the Courts, the Clerk of Courts maintains all road and bridge records for the County. Here, in Chester County, one may find carefully kept road records dating back to 1700, inscribed in the style of penmanship peculiar to the era.

## Controller

He is elected for a four year term with an annual salary of \$9,300.00. The

office is operated pursuant to the provisions of the Act of 1955, subject to the power and duty of the County Commissioners, to manage and administer the fiscal affairs of the County. He shall supervise the fiscal affairs of the County, including the accounts and official acts relating thereto, of all officers or other persons who collect, receive, hold or disburse the public monies of the County. The Controller might well be termed the Auditor of the County or the watch-dog of county funds. He prepares all checks upon request from the departments concerned, and all payments by the County must bear his approval prior to the signing of checks by the Commissioners and the Treasurer. The Controller maintains the official books of the County, reflecting all its properties, receipts and expenditures; all debts and accounts due by county officers and other personnel, and the amount raised by each source of revenue. He also prescribes the form and manner of keeping the books of each of the county offices. Annually the Controller completes the audit of all County officers and reports in detail to the Court of Common Pleas. It is to the Controller that the Commissioners turn each November as they begin the preparation of the proposed budget for the coming year. He furnishes the Commissioners with comparative statements of revenues and expenditures for the current and preceding years, a statement of appropriations and requests from all county officers and agencies, that the Commissioners, in their role of responsible managers and administrators of the County's fiscal affairs, may complete the county budget. He is a member of the Salary Board and serves as Secretary of the Retirement Board. He is aided by a deputy and two book-keepers, and a solicitor for advice on all legal matters.

## Coroner

He is elected for a term of four years with an annual salary of \$7,000.00. The Coroner is charged with the responsibility and duty to investigate the death of those who come to a sudden or violent end. All deaths of sudden, violent or suspicious nature are to be investigated by the Coroner and must be reported immediately to him. In the event that the cause of death cannot be learned adequately otherwise, he may direct that an autopsy be performed upon the body of the deceased. The Coroner conducts inquests in cases of highway fatalities, homicide, or deaths of a suspicious nature. The impaneled Coroner's Jury, composed of six members, at the inquest has the responsibility to decide the cause of death from the evidence submitted and to determine if criminal negligence or intent is involved; and must render a verdict with such recommendations it sees fit. Where criminal negligence or intent is found and a person is held, his case then goes before a Grand Jury. The Coroner is assisted by four deputies, who act for him in their own districts. Autopsies, when indicated, are usually performed on a fee basis set by the County Commissioners in the Pathological Laboratories of the voluntary hospitals within the County. The same law above provides that the Coroner act as Sheriff in case of vacancy by reason of removal from office or death or





A general view of Mushroom growing houses

resignation before expiration of the term for which the Sheriff was commissioned, until another Sheriff is commissioned.

## District Attorney

The District Attorney, "learned in the law," is elected by the voters of Chester County for a term of four years, pursuant to the Act of 1955, with an annual salary of \$10,000.00. His qualifications: he shall have been admitted to practice as an attorney before the Supreme or Superior Courts of this Commonwealth for at least two years prior to the time of taking oath of office, or shall have been admitted to practice before the Supreme or Superior Courts of this Commonwealth for at least six months prior to the time for taking the oath of office and have been practicing law before a Court of Record of this Commonwealth for at least five years. The District Attorney shall sign all bills of indictment and conduct in Court all criminal and other prosecution in the name of the Commonwealth. He is the principal law enforcement officer of the County, deriving his authority from the Attorney General.

(In 1850 the modern term "District Attorney" began to be applied.) He is charged with making investigations of any violations or alleged violations of the laws of the Commonwealth, which may come to his notice; taking such steps, and adopting such means as may be reasonably necessary to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth. The District Attorney maintains harmonious working relations with other police agencies in the County. A cooperative attitude among all the law enforcement agencies is apparent. Assisting with his functions are four assistant district attorneys; a chief of county detectives



and his criminal identification officer; and two secretaries to process the enormous volume of investigations, preparations, prosecutions and other details. The staff is appointed by the District Attorney, subject to approval of the Salary Board. Within the office is maintained, at county level, a Bureau of Criminal Identification, established in 1957 with a modern current filing system available to all police within the County. The files include photographs, fingerprints and other means of criminal identification. The Chief County Detective and his Assistant Identification Officer work from the District Attorney's offices, investigating and reporting to him evidence required in the preparation of criminal cases. The County Detectives are general peace officers with the power of constables as they relate to criminal law and procedure. As a result of recently enacted reciprocal arrangement with other states, the District Attorney is now able to render considerable assistance to Chester County wives whose husbands have left the County or Commonwealth and do not contribute to their support. All persons committed to Chester County Farms are finger printed, photographed and a personal history completed and recorded at the prison. Copies are maintained at the prison and in the detective office of the District Attorney. A copy is sent to the State Police at Harrisburg, and to the F.B.I. in Washington. Photographs and searches for latent finger prints are made for all murders, robberies, burglary, larceny and fatal accidents.

## Prothonotary

From the days of the Byzantine Court of the Eastern Empire, as early as 400 A.D., the Prothonotary has been a respected officer, rendering innumerable and valued services. In Pennsylvania, the Prothonotary was, until 1838, appointed by the Governor; now the Prothonotary is elected in compliance with



Burroughs Corp. Research Center, Paoli



the Act 1955. He serves a four year term with an annual salary of \$9,300.00. Briefly, the Prothonotary is, in fact, clerk or secretary to the Court of Common Pleas and in that capacity it is his duty to maintain records pertaining to all civil cases and to establish dockets and books for the keeping of such records. His general powers and duties are to sign and affix the Seal of the Court to all writs and processes and to the exemplification of all records; to take bail in civil actions; enter judgments at the instance of plaintiffs; sign all judgments or decrees; administer oaths and affirmations; and have custody of the records and Seal of Court. The records kept are voluminous. Included are the judgment docket in which he copies every judgment or award of the Court and the satisfaction, extension or revival of judgments; common pleas minutes; argument list; appearance dockets; divorce records; plaintiff and defendant indexes; records of municipal tax and merchandise liens; conditional sales records; records of equity proceedings; records of fictitious names in business; charter of certain corporations and organizations, including churches and charitable organizations; records of trusts; jury records and, in the case of contested elections, such election records over which the Court of Common Pleas has jurisdiction. Also, this office assists persons in matters of obtaining naturalization papers and passports, thereby eliminating the necessity of leaving our County for these documents. He is assisted in his duties by a staff of three deputies, two clerical assistants and a solicitor, all appointed by the Prothonotary, subject to approval by the County Salary Board.

## Recorder of Deeds

He is elected for a four year term, pursuant to the Act 1955, with an annual salary of \$9,300.00. In a county the size of Chester County, the office of Recorder of Deeds is a busy place. It is the Recorder's responsibility to record all deeds, mortgages and assignment of mortgages, satisfaction of mortgages, rights-of-way, agreements, commissions, powers and letters of attorney, as well as certain financial statements and armed service discharges. Recorded and maintained also are copies of all highway maps, as well as maps and plans of all developments within Chester County, including plans of sub-divisions and instruments pertaining to the titles of land. Fees prescribed by the legislature are charged for recording and for the making of copies of the various deeds and other documents maintained by him, with this commendable exception: no charge for recording a copy of discharges of veterans of the armed services. Because of the importance of a veteran's discharge paper, it is the philosophy of Chester County that the veteran be given a copy as a gift from the County in recognition of his service to his country. Photostatic copies of all records are made, maintaining one copy of each record at the County Court House, while the negative is retained as an additional precaution against possible loss or damage through fire or other disaster in the vaults of the commercial photostat firm with which the County does business. He serves also as Agent for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the collec-

tion of all realty transfer taxes. He is assisted in the duties by a staff of two deputies and certain clerical assistants; all of whom are empowered to administer oaths and affirmations with the same force and effect as if administered by the Recorder or the deputies. Attesting to the activities in this office, with attorneys and their representatives searching through the huge volumes of deeds and other papers, each cross-indexed for easier reference, is the fact that in one year more than 17,000 legal instruments have been recorded. The Recorder of Deeds serves a vital service in Chester County.

## **Register of Wills—Clerk of Orphans' Court**

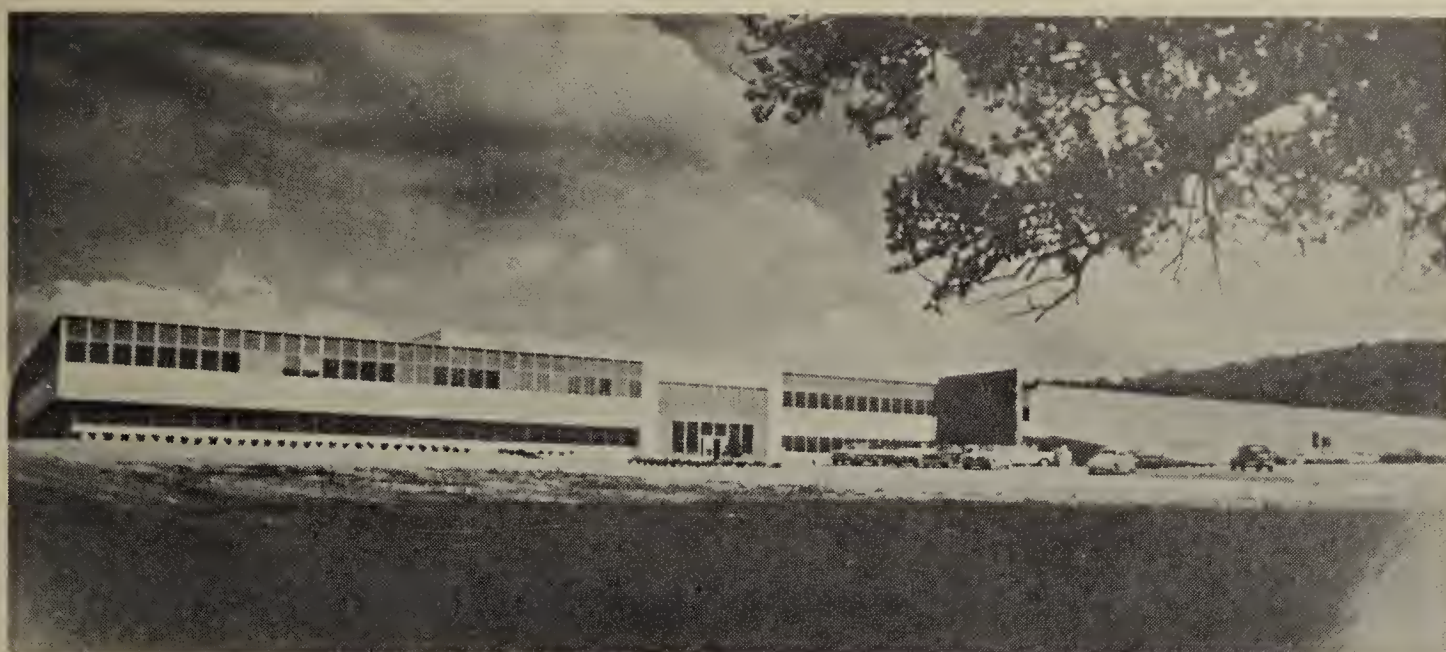
He is elected for a four year term. With a population of 150,000 or over, pursuant to provisions of the Act 1917, he also becomes ex-officio Clerk of Orphans' Court, with an annual salary of \$7,300.00. As Register of Wills he has jurisdiction over the admitting of wills to probate, and for the granting of Letters of Administration or Letters Testamentary. It is the responsibility of the Register of Wills to make the necessary inventories and to have estates appraised. He serves as agent for the Commonwealth in the collection of inheritance taxes and may retain a percentage of the gross amount of the tax collected from each estate. The percentage ranges downward from 5 per cent to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 1 per cent depending on the amount of the tax collected. The Register's income combined with salary and percentage shall not exceed \$15,000.00 per annum. Administrators and Executors file their accounts and inventories and appeals from probate wills with the Register of Wills. The Register issues certified copies of Wills, exemplification of records, and short certificates required for certain securities transfers.

As ex-officio Clerk of the Orphans' Court, he accepts for filing the accounts of trustees and guardians and acts on the appointment of these guardians and trustees. He has charge of the Docket of the Orphans' Court and maintains and safeguards all records of that Court including impounded adoption records. Accounts are transmitted to the Clerk from the Register of Wills for advertising. It is the Clerk of Orphans' Court who issues all marriage licenses in the County and who maintains the records of all persons born in Chester County between 1893–1906. Prior to 1893 the law did not provide for the registration of births, and from 1906 the law directed the filing of birth registration records directly with the Commonwealth at Harrisburg, Bureau of Vital Statistics. With these dual responsibilities and duties, valued services are rendered by the Register of Wills, assisted by his staff of two deputies and a clerical assistant in probate matters, with a deputy, an assistant clerk and a clerical assistant in Orphans' Court matters.

## **Sheriff**

He is elected for a term of four years, pursuant to the Act 1955, with an annual salary of \$9,500.00. He is responsible for the execution of the law and





Wyeth Laboratories Inc., Plant, Malvern

the preservation of order and for the serving of all necessary papers in connection with the Common Pleas Court. In such collection proceedings, the Sheriff causes to be sold at auction such real estate or personal property as may be involved in the collection of the non-satisfied judgment. Monthly auctions are held under the supervision of the Sheriff. The activities of the office reveal more than one hundred Common Pleas Court cases are dealt with a month, with an additional thirty to forty other executions a month on various legal matters. In Criminal Court, the Sheriff is charged with the conveying of prisoners to and from the Prison to the Court, with transporting of juveniles when so requested, and with the serving of all bench warrants. During each session of Criminal Court, the Sheriff must assign a deputy to each court for the proper safeguarding of prisoners and must assign additional deputies to the task of transporting the prisoners. For this purpose he appoints additional Deputy Sheriffs on a per diem basis thereby conserving public funds and at the same time performing properly the duties of the office. It is the Sheriff who, armed with the proper order or writ from the Court, effects the release of prisoners from confinement and, under certain conditions, maintains custody of prisoners who may be permitted to be absent from prison. An example of this situation might be that a prisoner, awaiting trial, suffers death in his immediate family and wishes to attend the funeral. If, in the opinion of the Court, the prisoner should be permitted to attend, the Sheriff transports the prisoner from the prison to the funeral and back. The Sheriff is also responsible for safeguarding the Jury Wheel from which the names of all jurors are drawn, and for notifying jurors chosen for a panel of their selection. This office is self-supporting, its income derived from the legally prescribed fee charged for services rendered. He is assisted by a staff of five deputies which he appoints subject to approval of the Salary Board, each deputized for prompt and efficient service to the citizens of Chester County.

## Treasurer

The office of County Treasurer is an important function in the Administration of County fiscal affairs. Elected for a four year term in the manner provided by the Act 1955, with an annual salary of \$8,200.00. As in the case of the Sheriff, the Treasurer cannot succeed himself for re-election for the term next succeeding the one for which he may be elected. The Treasurer must receive all money due the County, issue receipts therefor, maintain accounts of all funds received and disbursed, and with the County Commissioners, sign all County checks which, as they are returned cancelled, must be filed in his office as permanent record. Daily the Treasurer records all disbursements from the County Treasury and forwards such records to the Controller, along with daily records of all receipts, thus providing a further double safeguard on all public funds entrusted to his care. He states his accounts annually, along with receipts and vouchers and presents them to the Controller for final audit. It is his responsibility, together with the County Commissioners, to designate by resolution the depositories for all county funds. By law, such depositories must be banks, banking institutions or trust companies located within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. By custom, such depositories are located within Chester County. For further protection, each depository chosen by the Treasurer and the Commissioners furnishes a bond to secure payment of deposits and such interest as may accrue to the County; or in lieu of such a bond, securities may be placed in escrow with the Federal Reserve Bank. More than 80,000 receipts, all in triplicate, are recorded annually by the Treasurer. Licenses in excess of 22,000 a year are issued by this office, which is the Agent for the Commonwealth for fishing, hunting and dog licenses. Checks for payment of all County expenditures are drawn in this office. The Treasurer is also a member of the Retirement Board.

The Treasurer's modern office equipment includes an automatic Burroughs combination electric typewriter for making new and duplicate tax bills at the same time posting current taxes, and a Remington Rand Electric Card-Veyor (cylinder type) for filing tax cards, averaging now approximately 90,000 with a maximum potential of 130,000 cards. These modern improvements render a high degree of efficiency in the operations and costs of the office for the residents of Chester County.

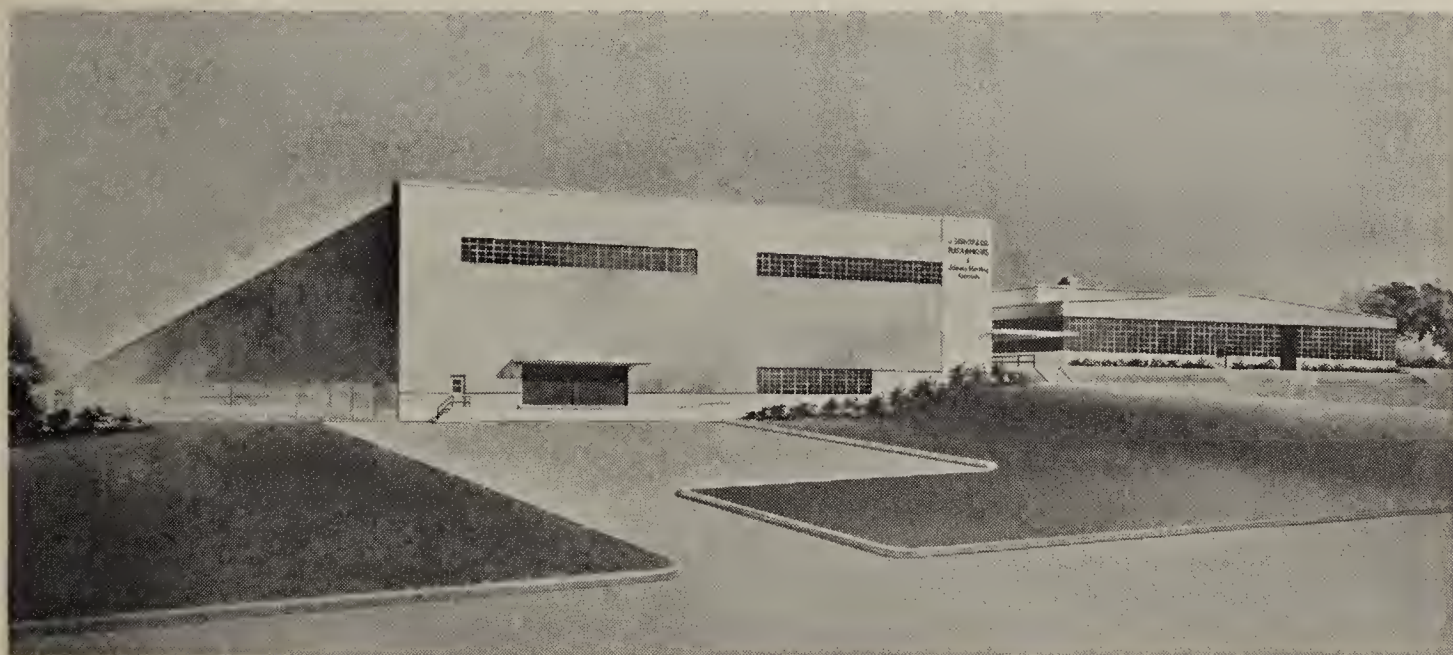
## Surveyor

He is elected for a four year term, but without salary. Originally he performed the engineering duties, now performed by the County Engineer. The position now has only an historic interest.





Foote Mineral Co., Route 100, Exton



J. Bishop & Co., Lincoln Highway Plant, west of Malvern

# POINTS OF

## **Baldwin's Country Store**

Route 52, between West Chester and Lenape.

## **Brinton House**

Erected 1704, on U.S. 202, just over Chester County line below Dilworthtown.

## **New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Medicine**

Route 926 (Street Road) between Willowdale and London Grove.

## **Brandywine Battle Field**

Just East of Chadds Ford, North of U.S. 1, in both Chester and Delaware Counties, including the Headquarters of Washington and LaFayette.

## **Bridges (Covered)**

Bell Bank on Octorara, on Route 15156; Glen Hall, West Brandywine, on Route 15080, between Embreeville and Northbrook; Glen Hope, Little Elk, just South of Route 15008, West of Lewisville; Gibson's, East Brandywine, on Route 15076, between Sugar's Bridge and Harmony Hill Road on U.S. 322; Hall's, French Creek, on Route 15071, near Wilson's Corner; Kennedy's, just North of Kimberton and West of 15059, French Creek; Knox, Valley on Route 15050, at Valley Forge Park; Larkins, Marsh, South of Route 15018 and Milford Mills; Linton Stevens, Big Elk, just South of Route 15238, from New London below New Hope; McCreary, Black Run, just West of Route 15001 on the way to Freemont; Mercer Ford, Octorara, South of Atglen; Newcomer's, Octorara, just North of Route 15156; Pine Grove, Octorara, on Routes 15006 and 15024 near Tweeddale; Rapp's, French Creek, West of Phoenixville, South of Route 23; Rudolph & Arthur, Big Elk, on Route 15015, North of Lewisville; Speakman's, 2, Buck Run, on Route 15068, South of Hepzibah.

## **Coventry Forge**

The first in Chester County—1717, off Route 23, between Bucktown and St. Mary's.

## **Diamond Rock School (Octagonal)**

North of Paoli, on Route 15108 in Chester Valley.

## **Embreeville State Hospital**

Route 15180, between Marshallton and Romansville.

## **Geology and Natural Science, Falls of French Creek**

Off Route 23, North from Knauertown.

## **Historical Society—Chester County**

North High Street, West Chester.

## **Hopewell Furnace and Federal-State Parks**

North of Route 23, on Route 15133 and 15210, between Elverson and St. Mary's.

## **Immaculate College of Liberal Arts for Women**

Route 15095, between Morstein and Frazer.



# INTEREST

## **Lincoln University**

Now an integrated liberal arts institution, at Lincoln University, Pennsylvania  
—On Route U.S. 1, just East of Oxford.

## **Longwood Gardens**

Internationally famous, at intersection of U.S. 1, and Route 52, at Anvil.

## **Swiss Pine's Park**

Route 15049, between Devault and Charlestown, North of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

## **Sharp's Woods Reserve**

Sugartown Road, South of Berwyn.

## **Lukens Steel Company**

One of the oldest continuous steel manufacturers in America, on South First Avenue, Coatesville, Pennsylvania.

## **The Newcomen Society**

Upper Uwchlan Township (North Ship Road) Route 15184.

## **Paoli Monument**

The site of the infamous slaughter of General Wayne's troops, on Route 15106 and Monument Avenue, Malvern.

## **Pennhurst State School**

Route 83, between Spring City and Parkerford.

## **Pocopson Home**

For the care of County indigent residents, on Route 52, between Lenape and Anvil.

## **Chester County Farms**

For the incarceration of prisoners, off Route 52, adjoining the Pocopson Home, between Lenape and Anvil.

## **Red Rose Inn**

Famous by reason of annual rent being paid by one red rose, at Jennersville, on U.S. 1, between West Grove and Oxford.

## **Star Rose Gardens**

The country's outstanding Rose Grower, and the oldest in America in rose growing experience, South of West Grove and U.S. 1.

## **SCOUTING:** Horseshoe Scout Reservation

Open year round, on the Octorara, of 650 acres, off U.S. 1, to the right, two miles West of Rising Sun, Maryland.

### **Girls**

100 acres, open year round, Camp Tweeddale, on Route 15024, below Oxford, near the City of Chester Water Reservoir.

## **Townsend House**

Built in two sections, 1785 and 1830, 225 North Matlack Street, West Chester.

**Valley Forge Park and Washington's Headquarters**

On Route 83, North from U.S. 202.

**Warwick Furnace site**

1737, famous for Cannon, Cannon Balls and the first Franklin Stoves, on Route 23, near St. Mary's.

**Waynesborough**

Home of General Wayne, of Revolutionary fame, South of Paoli, on Route 15111.

**West Chester State College**

Teacher education (Philips Autographed Library) South High Street, West Chester.

**Westtown School**

Treasure Room, in main school building, on Route 15090, South of Route 3, East of Chatwood, West Chester.

(See Map for Route Numbers)



Conard-Pyle, Rose Growers at Jennersville





Historic Huts at Valley Forge



The Diamond Rock (Octagonal) School



## PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS

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The original Great Valley Presbyterian Church of 1710, Paoli







